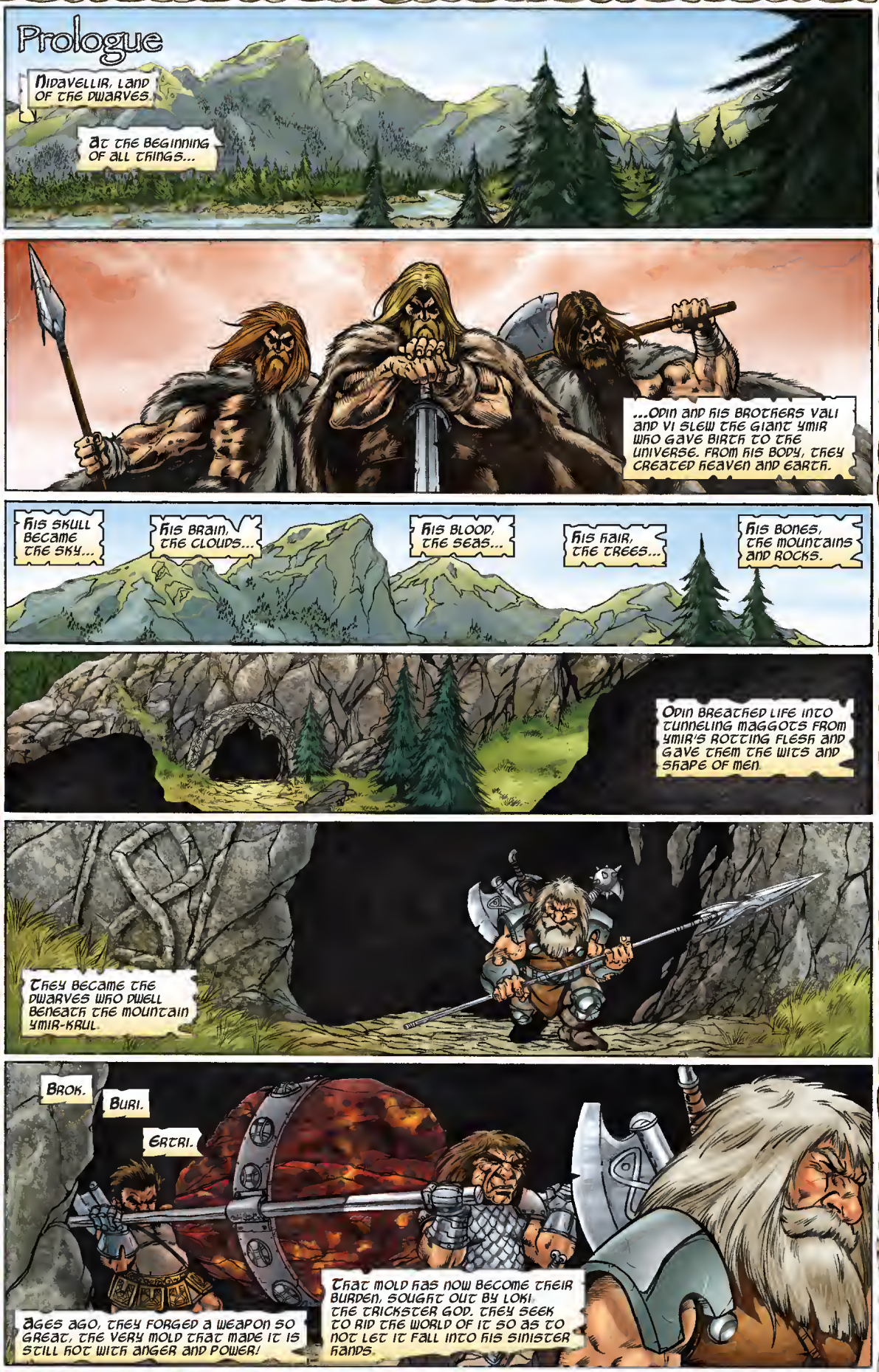


MARVEL
VOLUME 4

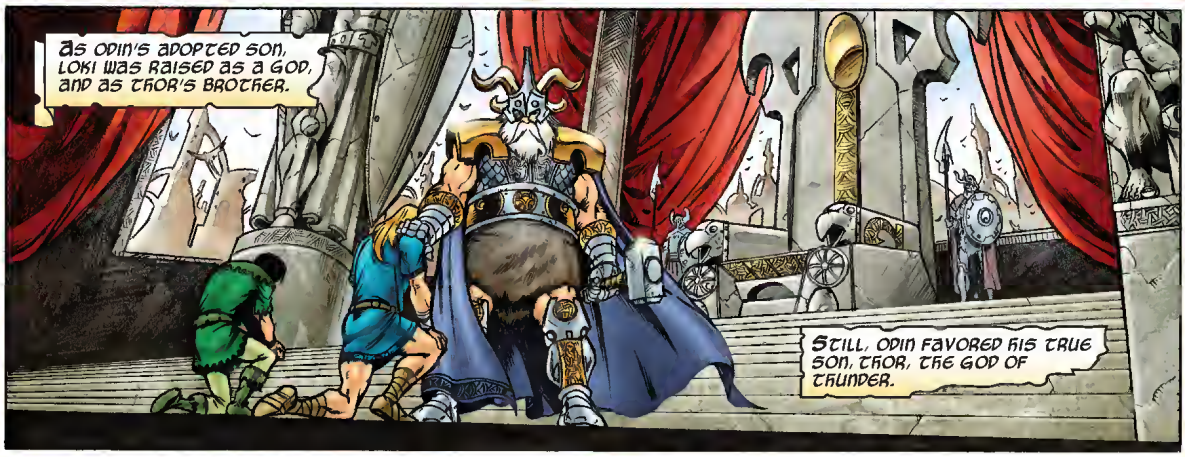
Thor
New X-Men
Avengers
Astonishing X-Men
Iron Man
Captain America
Daredevil

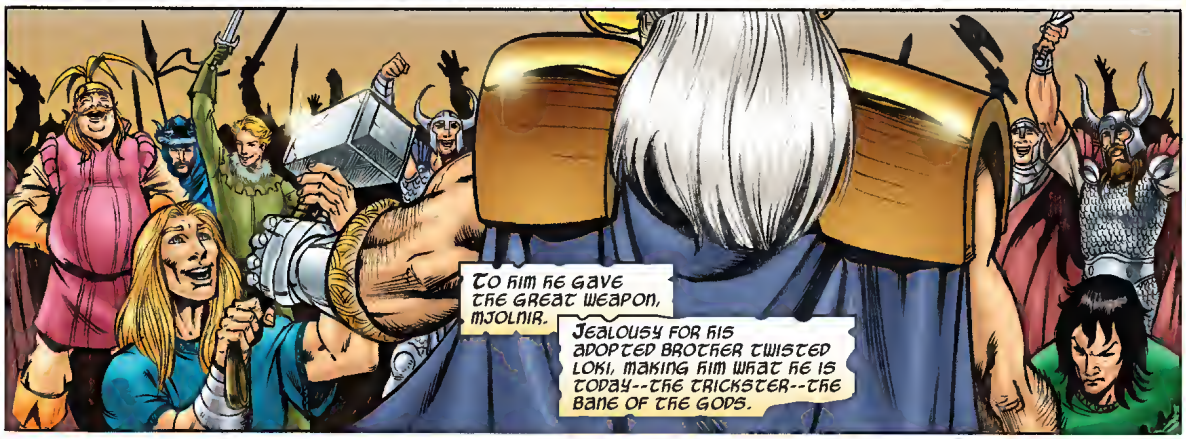

AVENGERS
DISASSEMBLED PROLOGUE
RAGNAROK 1 OF 6
THOR
MARVEL
PSR 80 582
OEMING
DiVITO
VILLARI


Prologue
Nidavellir, land of the dwarves.
At the beginning of all things...
...Odin and his brothers Vali and Vi slew the giant Ymir who gave birth to the universe. From his body, they created heaven and earth.
His skull became the sky...
His brain, the clouds...
His blood, the seas...
His hair, the trees...
His bones, the mountains and rocks.
Odin breathed life into tunneling maggots from Ymir's rotting flesh and gave them the wits and shape of men.
They became the dwarves who dwell beneath the mountain Ymir-krul.
Brok.
Buri.
Ertri.
Ages ago, they forged a weapon so great, the very mold that made it is still hot with anger and power!
That mold has now become their burden, sought out by Loki, the trickster god. They seek to rid the world of it so as to not let it fall into his sinister hands.

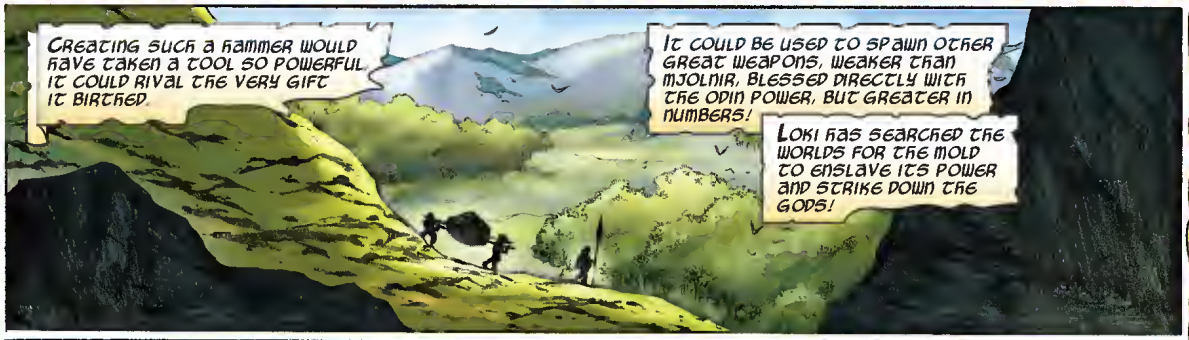

In the earliest days of the gods, they needed a great weapon to strike down their enemies!
Odin sought out the great dwarf craftsman Eitri to make the hammer Mjolnir.
Eitri used the heart of a sun to forge a mold with which he birthed Mjolnir, greatest weapon of all time!
His creation is a work blessed with magic. Blessed by the Odin Power!
As to not break the world, the only forge capable of holding this work is the cosmos itself.
So great was the forging of the mold and of Mjolnir that it nearly destroyed the smiths, shook all of Asgard, and sent chunks of fire to the worlds.
Destroying some...
...to make room for others.

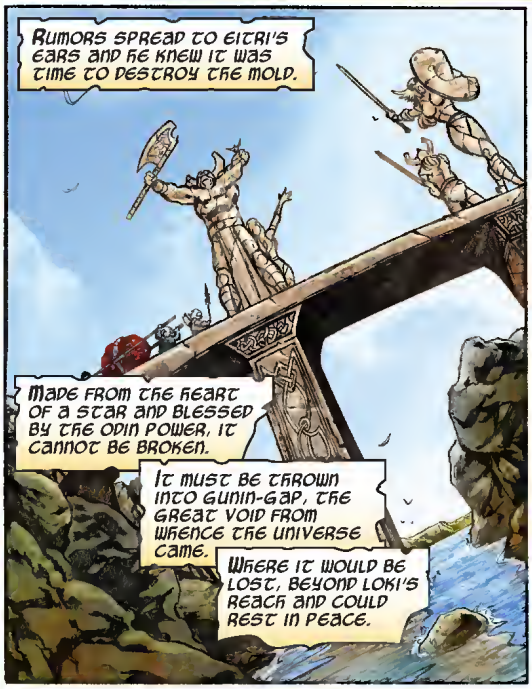

This is what it takes to forge a weapon for the gods, nothing less than the death of a sun and a planet!
Mjolnir! Breaker of all things and curse upon evil! Blessed by the Odin Power!
Odin himself used the weapon to crush the giant Laufey who threatened to destroy Asgard.
The slain giant left behind a child, Loki. Feeling responsible, Odin took him in as his own.


As Odin's adopted son, Loki was raised as a god, and as Thor's brother.
Still, Odin favored his true son, Thor, the god of thunder.


To him he gave the great weapon, Mjolnir.
Jealousy for his adopted brother twisted Loki, making him what he is today--the trickster--the bane of the gods.

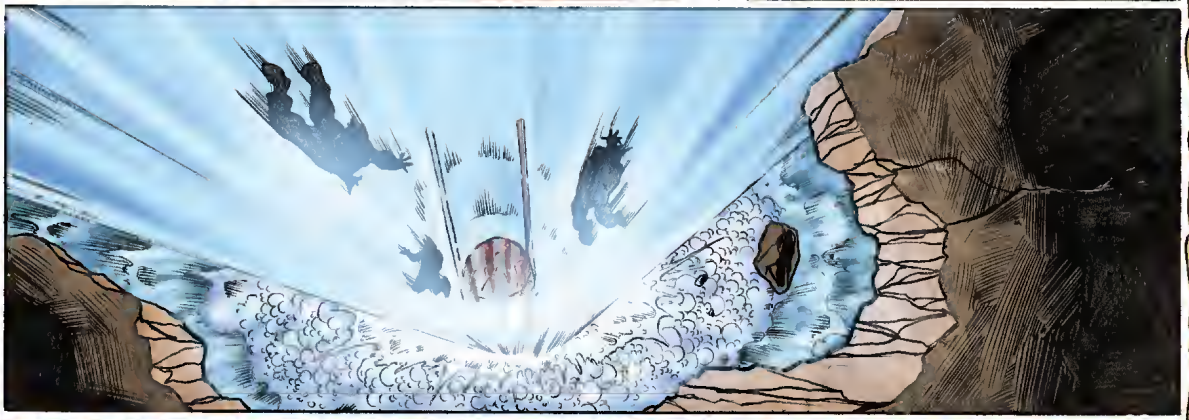

Wielding Mjolnir, Odin's true son is Thor the thunder god!
Ragnarok
Part The First

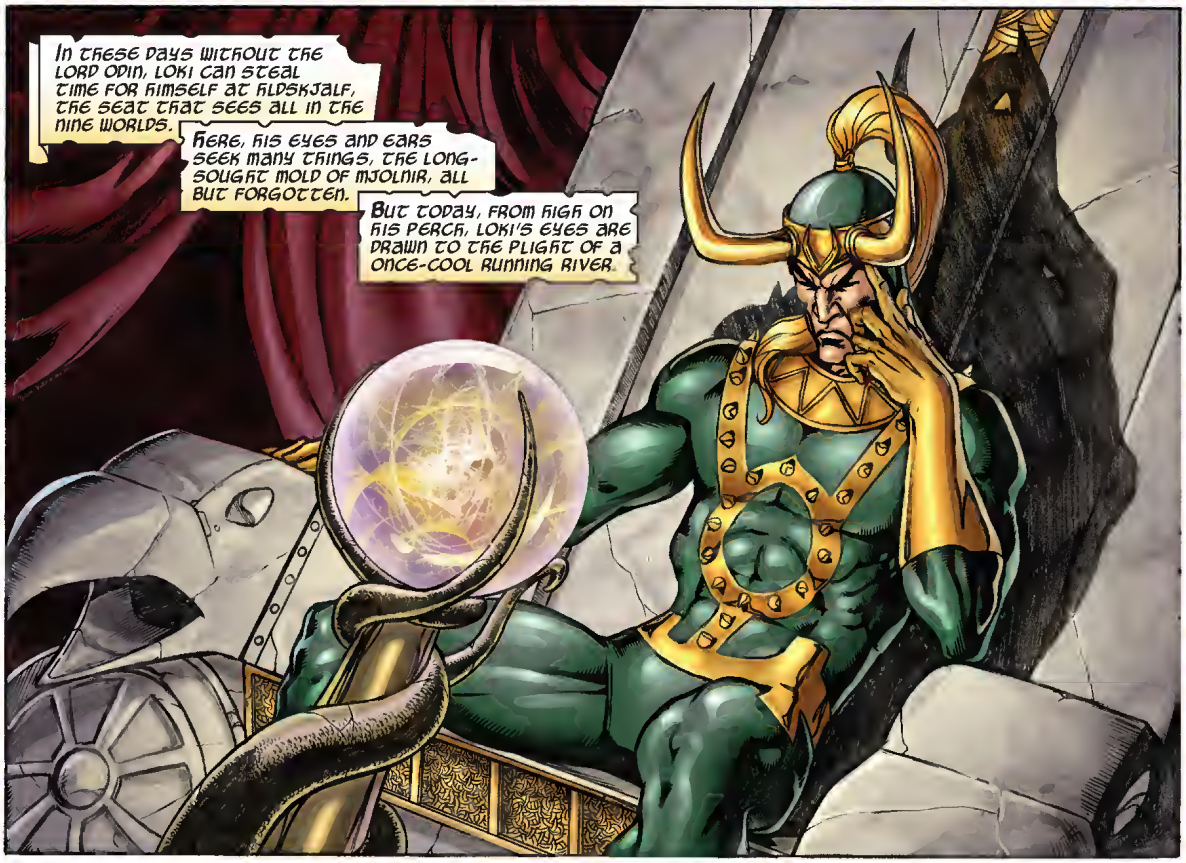

Creating such a hammer would have taken a tool so powerful it could rival the very gift it birthed.
It could be used to spawn other great weapons, weaker than Mjolnir, blessed directly with the Odin Power, but greater in numbers!
Loki has searched the worlds for the mold to enslave its power and strike down the gods!

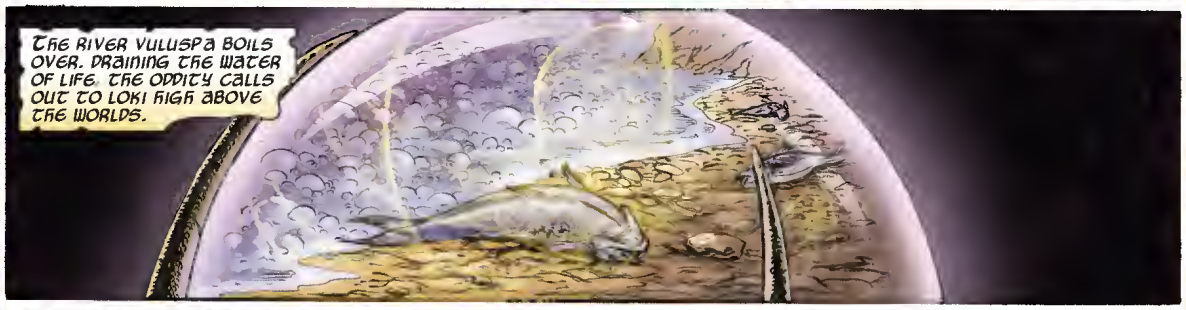

Rumors spread to Eitri's ears and he knew it was time to destroy the mold.
Made from the heart of a star and blessed by the Odin Power, it cannot be broken.
It must be thrown into Gunin-Gap, the great void from whence the universe came.
Where it would be lost, beyond Loki's reach and could rest in peace.

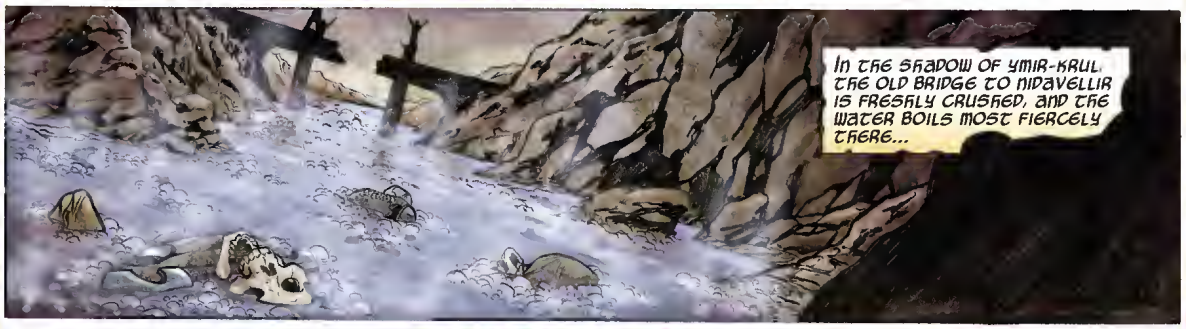

Even now, eons later, the mold burns with the fury of its creation.


AGH! The mold is too heavy, run back!
Buri! Grab my--
No, you fool!




In these days without the Lord Odin, Loki can steal time for himself at Hlidskjalf, the seat that sees all in the nine worlds.
Here, his eyes and ears seek many things, the long-sought mold of Mjolnir, all but forgotten.
But today, from high on his perch, Loki's eyes are drawn to the plight of a once-cool running river.


The river Vulluspa boils over. Draining the water of life. The oddity calls out to Loki high above the worlds.


In the shadow of Ymir-krul, the old bridge to Nidavellir is freshly crushed, and the water boils most fiercely there...


Now Loki has found his prize.
With it he can humiliate Thor, wipe the worlds clean of the gods and claim his place as ruler of all he sees!
End Prologue


MIR-KRUL, ONE MONTH LATER
KRAKKATHOOM!
THOOOM!
FOR THIRTY DAYS YOU DWARVES OF NIDAVELLIR MOURNED THE LOSS OF EITRI AND HIS BROTHERS, ELDEST AND GREATEST OF YOUR SMITHS!
EITRI--YOUR LEADER! FATHER! GOD UNDER THE MOUNTAIN!
THIS TOMB, WHERE WE'VE LAID OUR FRIENDS, IS OUR GIFT TO HONOR EITRI AND HIS BROTHERS, CARVED BY THE GODS OF VALHALLA--AS A TRIBUTE!
ITS DOOR IS MADE FROM THE BONES AND SKULL OF THE FAMED DRAGON FIN FANG FOOM WHO I SLEW WITH MJOLNIR--EITRI'S GIFT TO THE GODS!
YOUR GIFT HAS SEEN THE DEEP PAST AND FAR FUTURE. EVERY CHILD, WOMAN, MAN...EVERY GOD SAVED BY MJOLNIR IS IN YOUR DEBT. AS AM I,THE KING OF ASGARD.
DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAIN, THE TOMB IS SEALED, WITNESSED BY DWARVES AND GODS...
The Valkyries
Annota
Balder
Thor
Sif
Fandral
Volstagg
Fogun
THE DWARVES' GRIEF HAS BEEN SO GREAT THAT ALL THE WORLDS HAVE BEEN SHAKEN. STORMS AND THUNDER HAVE PUNISHED THE MOUNTAINS FROM ASGARD TO EARTH...
YET I WONDER, DOES THIS THUNDER COME NOT FROM GRIEF...
...BUT FROM ANGER?
KRAKKATHOOM!
KRAKKA-DOOM!


In it was not grief or anger...but the striking of a cosmic weapon pounded in the mold of Mjolnir!
Take cover! The sacred mountain is breaking!
No! No, it cannot be!
We are in the heart of Ymir-krul, it cannot crack!
It can! And it does!
That could happen only in the monstrous forge of Surtur, the fire demon returned from the abyss!
For nearly the whole month of mourning, Surtur has labored forging weapons of doom in his fresh hell!
The mold of Mjolnir has been awakened!
KRAKKA-DOOM!
Who dares defile such a hallowed place?!?!
KRAKKA-DOOM!


THOR!
BY THE ALL-FATHER'S EYE!
HAHAHAHAHA!
THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, WIELDER OF THE GREAT HAMMER...


HOW I PITY THEE, BROTHER. SUCH A SHAME THAT FATHER BLESSED YOU WITH MORE MUSCLES THAN BRAINS. IF YOU COULD WIELD SUCH A GIFT AS MJOLNIR, WHY COULD I NOT?
SO, SO STUPID, LITTLE GOD.
GRRRRRRRR...


NOW, MY SON FENRIS, ONCE BOUND BY THE ACCURSED GODS, HAVE YOUR FUN BEFORE I FINISH THE DEED!
FFOOOORRLL!
ARRRG!
THE ENCHANTRESS-- DEAD!
CAUGHT BY THE SAME BLOW THAT TOOK THOR!
W-WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT STRUCK ME DOWN? I'VE NEVER FELT...
MY LORD! YOU MUST AWAKEN!
FANDRAL... I HEARD HIM... ENCHANTRESS-- GO...HELP HER, SIF, HELP HER!
I'M SORRY...
MANY HAVE FALLEN...
WE MUST MAKE OUR STAND-- EVEN IF IT IS OUR LAST...

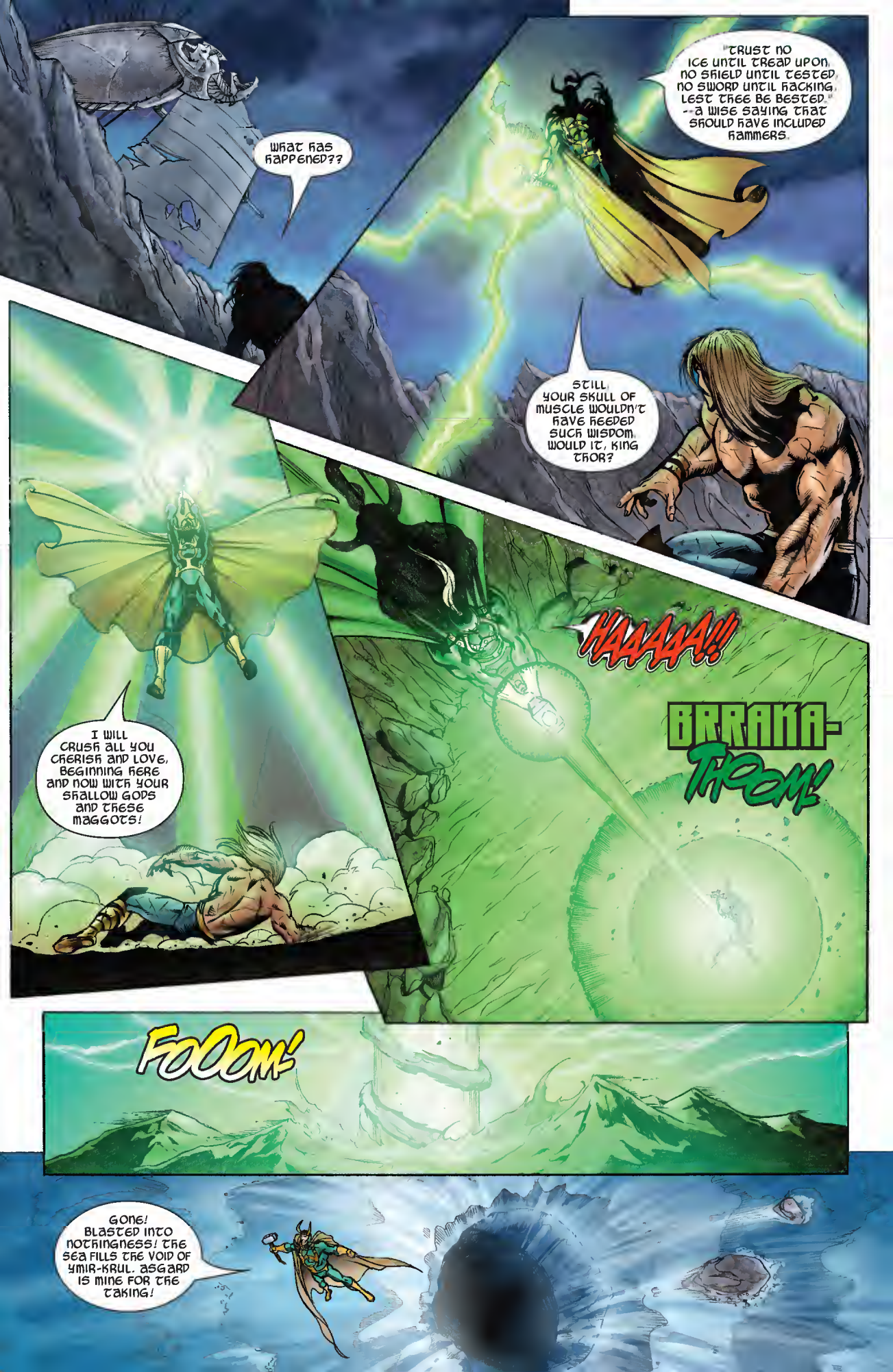

KNK-KAA!
AH!
ULIK THE INVINCIBLE! LONG-TIME FOE OF THE GODS, THE WAR-DRIVEN TROLL HAS GONE UNHINGED, ONLY ONE THOUGHT ON HIS MIND--DESTRUCTION!
FENRIS THE WOLF, DEMON SPAWN OF LOKI, DESTINED ON THE DAY OF RAGNAROK TO BREAK HIS BONDS AT THE SIDE OF HIS FATHER, LOKI!
KKRAKA-BAM!!!!
UGGH!
FAAA!!
AH!

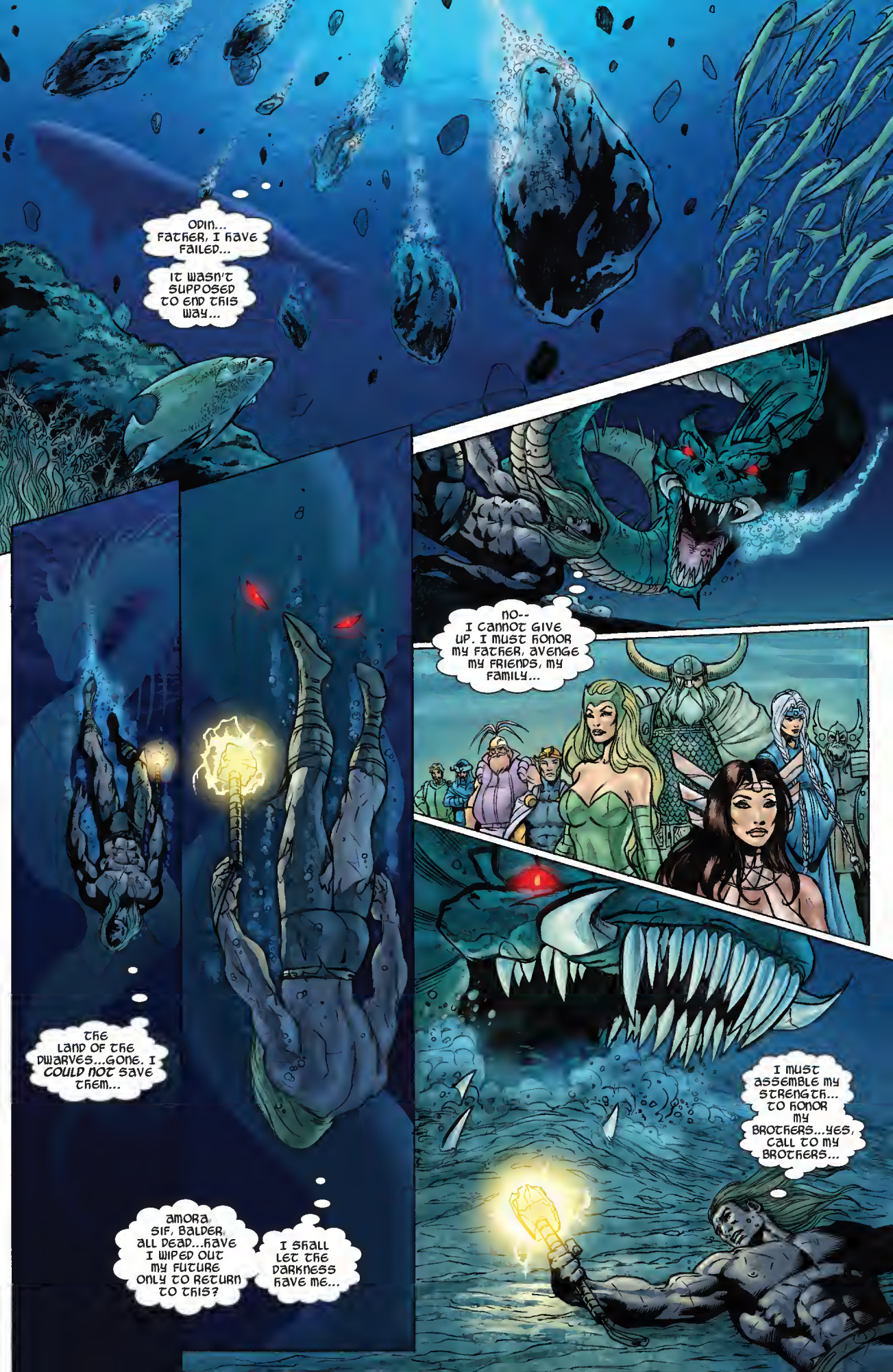

THOR! THOR, MY KING-- I--
SIF... BALDER, WHERE ARE YOU?
HERE, SIRE!
LADY SIF! YOUR ARM...
I'M--I'M SORRY...
LOKI!!



THE HAMMERS STRIKE EACH OTHER WITH SUCH FORCE AND POWER AS TO OVERCOME THE SENSES!


BY MY FATHER'S WILL...


WHAT HAS HAPPENED??
"TRUST NO ICE UNTIL TREAD UPON, NO SHIELD UNTIL TESTED, NO SWORD UNTIL HACKING, LEST THEE BE BESTED." --A WISE SAYING THAT SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED HAMMERS.
STILL, YOUR SKULL OF MUSCLE WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED SUCH WISDOM, WOULD IT, KING THOR?
I WILL CRUSH ALL YOU CHERISH AND LOVE, BEGINNING HERE AND NOW WITH YOUR SHALLOW GODS AND THESE MAGGOTS!
HAAAAA!!!
BRRAKA-THOOM!
FOOOM!
GONE! BLASTED INTO NOTHINGNESS! THE SEA FILLS THE VOID OF YMIR-KRUL. ASGARD IS MINE FOR THE TAKING!

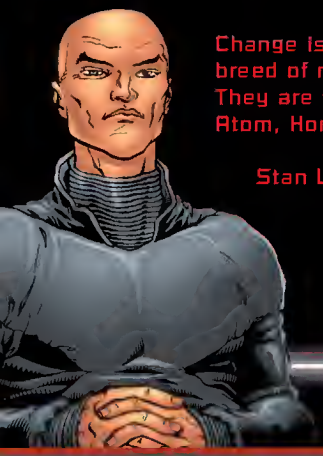

ODIN... FATHER, I HAVE FAILED...
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO END THIS WAY...
NO-- I CANNOT GIVE UP. I MUST HONOR MY FATHER, AVENGE MY FRIENDS, MY FAMILY...
THE LAND OF THE DWARVES...GONE. I *COULD NOT* SAVE THEM...
I MUST ASSEMBLE MY STRENGTH... TO HONOR MY BROTHERS...YES, CALL TO MY BROTHERS...
AMORA SIF, BALDER, ALL DEAD...HAVE I WIPED OUT MY FUTURE ONLY TO RETURN TO THIS?
I SHALL LET THE DARKNESS HAVE ME...


YES! THE CALL! I PRAY THIS WORKS, OR IT WILL BE MY FINAL BREATH!
AVENGERS!!!
THRAKKASHOOSH!
MIDGARD. EARTH. HOW PEACEFUL IT SEEMS FROM HERE...FAR AWAY FROM THE END OF ASGARD--
--FAR FROM THE END TIMES OF RAGNAROK!


LOWER EAST SIDE, NEW YORK.
LOOK! CAP GOT HIM! HE SAVED PASTUZAK!
I THOUGHT WE LOST HIM WHEN THE FLOOR COLLAPSED!
THIS IS THE LAST OF YOUR MEN. MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S OUT--THE BUILDING'S GOING TO COLLAPSE!
BUT THOSE KIDS...
BOOM!
THEY'RE FINE, SIR. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF NOW!
AAAAHHHHGH!
AAAGH! HELP ME, CAP! THE ROBOT'S GOT ME! IT BLEW UP OUR HOUSE!
CALM DOWN, SON, THAT'S NO ROBOT--HE'S MY PAL, IRON MAN.


I DON'T LIKE ROBOTS EITHER.
WHOA! WHERE'D THAT PRESSURE COME FROM? CUT THE HOSES!
a...a...a...
AVENGERS.... ASSEMBLE..
THOR! THIS IS SEA WATER!
THAT CREATURE IS THE MIDGARD SERPENT. FROM THE NORSE WORLD-- FROM ASGARD!


MARVEL
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146
MORRISON
JIMENEZ
LANNING
NEW X MEN
PLANET X
1 OF 5
ETHAN VAN SCIVER
TOWNSEND
NOSE
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Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom, Homo superior.

Stan Lee presents...

NEW X-MEN



PLANET X 1 of 5



PROFESSOR X
Charles Xavier
Telepath



CYCLOPS
Scott Summers
Optic Blasts



JEAN GREY
Telepath/Telekinetic



BEAST
Dr. Hank McCoy
Super-Strength/Agility



WOLVERINE
Logan
Adamantium Claws/Healing



EMMA FROST
Telepath/Diamond Skin



XORN
Healer



FANTOMEX
Superhuman Abilities/
Super-Sentinel

PREVIOUSLY



Writer
Grant Morrison

Penciler
Phil Jimenez

Inker
Andy Lanning

Colorist
Chris Chuckry

Letterer
Virtual Calligraphy's
Rus Wooton

Cover
Ethan Van Sciver

Assistant Editor
Annie Thornton

Editor
Mike Marts

Editor In Chief
Joe Quesada

President
Bill Jemas

After drowning his marital sorrows over a few too many drinks at the Hellfire Club, SCOTT SUMMERS half-heartedly agrees to accompany LOGAN and FANTOMEX on a mission to "The World": a top-secret installation in England where artificially evolved super-soldiers are bred in gruesome experiments designed to exterminate mutantkind. Searching for the ever-elusive answers to his own history within the Weapon Plus Program, Logan and his companions arrive within the protective Dome of The World, only to come face-to-face with the fury of WEAPON XV, The World's latest and greatest creation of Super-Sentinel technology. Barely escaping with their lives, the heroes' valiant attempt to neutralize—and contain—the rampaging super-soldier fails. Weapon XV manages to break free from the confines of The World and escapes to the Weapon Plus Program's top secret base, a space station orbiting Earth.

After traveling to Weapon Plus space station via Fantomex's flying saucer companion E.V.A., Wolverine finally learns the horrific history of the Weapon Plus program—including the shocking story of his own past contained in the lost Weapon X files. Sickened with this newfound knowledge, the desperate and disturbed Wolverine takes matters into his own hands...literally obliterating the entire space station once and for all.

Meanwhile on Earth, things are no less chaotic. PROFESSOR XAVIER and his mutant X-MEN are recovering from the recent attempt on EMMA FROST's life. And while investigating the crime, JEAN GREY's use of the Phoenix Force grows at a dangerously alarming rate.

And, as if that weren't enough, there may be a traitor within the mansion as well...

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THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHER LEARNING
CEREBRA
X-MEN
EMERGENCY!


IN ORBIT ABOVE EARTH...
LOGAN!
LOGAN'S STILL UP ON THAT SATELLITE, FANTOMEX!
LOGAN!


X-MEN EMERGENCY!
Professor, is that you?
I'm sorry I ran out on the X-Men like I did, sir! I'll try to explain later.
Unnh... I feel like I just woke up in a burning microwave oven.
E.V.A.?
E.V.A. was hurt...
Logan's been blown to hell and needs immediate assistance, Fantomex! Your spaceship can wait!
And I need you to check allegations of a government informant inside the mansion, Professor!
Looks like we're above the Pacific Ocean-- maybe two hundred miles southeast of French Polynesia...


SCOTT!
To me, my X-Men!
I'm leaving this awful place the instant you're done with these tests on me, Henry.
Am I all right, or aren't I?
You'll really be missed if you go...you're a great teacher, Emma.
To me, my X-Men!
Wait...
...did Charles say Scott's alive?
Yup.
You coming?
Hurry.
My word, Henry--you are nimble!
Why do I have the impending feeling that my life's approaching some kind of horrible closure?


I'm going away soon, Charles.
Hm?
What, Jean?
I said I'm going into space.
Cerebra has located Logan in near-Earth orbit and he's still alive...
Jean... Jean, slow down.
How did you know that Cerebra had found...
Oh.
The Phoenix Force.
The X-Plane Mark 3 can get me there. I'm learning how to fly telepathically from a test pilot in room 221 of the Westchester Hilton.
You needn't worry so much, Charles.
You needn't be disheartened.
Whatever happens will be for the best.
I think the world of you, Jean.
I still hope that when I step down this summer, you'll be willing to take over as headmistress of the Institute.
Please take care.

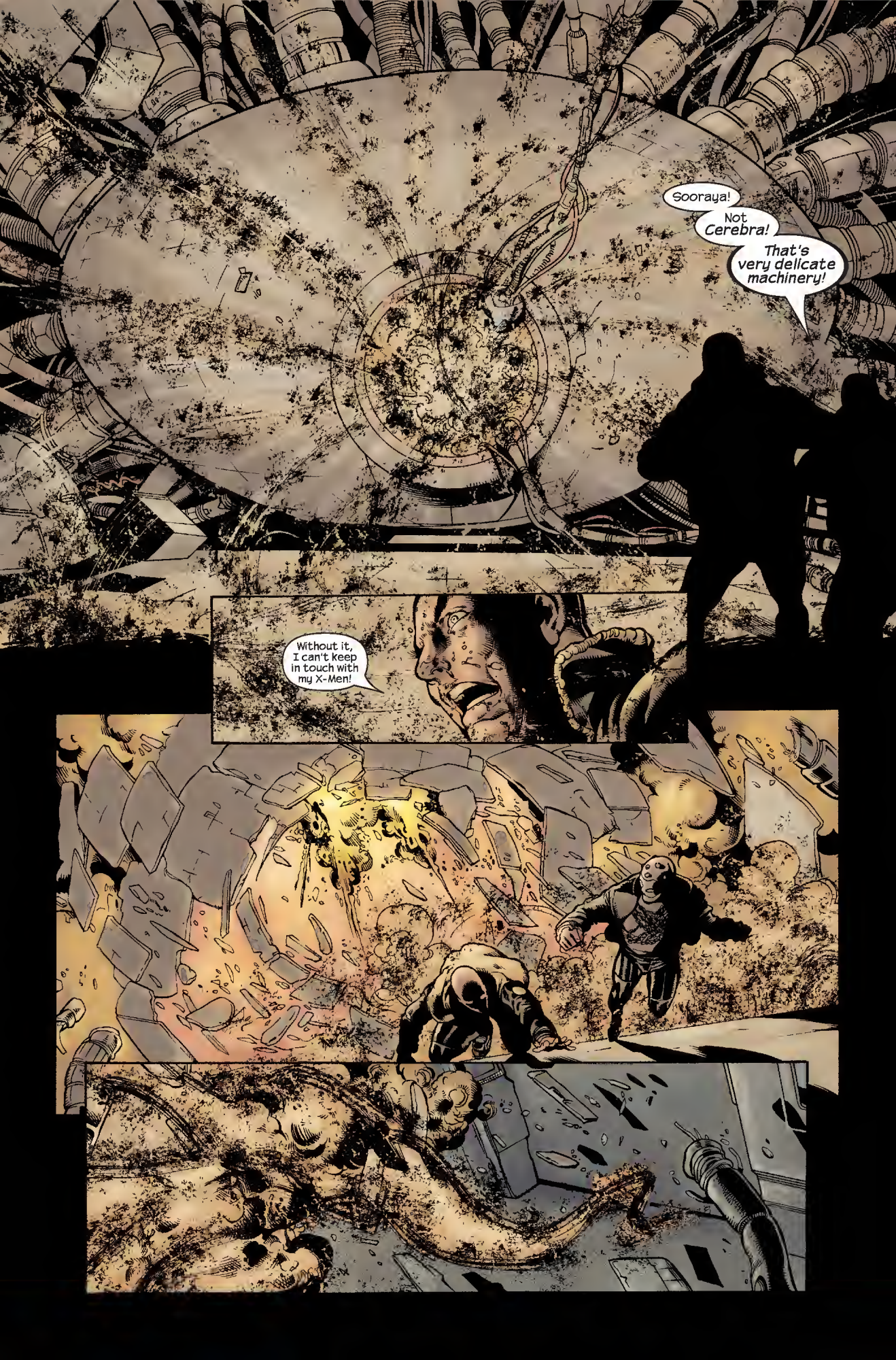

THE SPECIAL CLASS
So you've heard what I have to say, Sooraya...
...what's your answer?


MEANWHILE...
?


I thought I felt someone nearby.
Your telepathic presence is almost undetectable in granular form... incredible...
Oh, this is Cerebra-- the helmet amplifies my telepathic gifts.
I'm sure I'd be able to locate you with this on if I had to.
Using this equipment, I can watch over every mutant on Earth and scan the whole globe for trouble.
Would you like me to find someone for you?
Sooraya, isn't it? "Dust".
We haven't had much of a chance to talk since Jean brought you to stay with us.
What?
I'm sure that can't be right...


We put you in the special class because Mister Xorn has an affinity for sensitive and traumatized children.
No, I'm sure he wouldn't...
Mister Xorn...you're here.
One of your students seems to think something's wrong...
I know.
Something affected Dust deeply--she ran from the class, changing form as she went.
I think she may have lost control of her power.
PROFESSOR, LOOK OUT!


Sooraya!
STOP!
URRRH
Xorn, what's happening?
In this form, she could cut our flesh to the bone!


Sooraya!
Not Cerebra!
That's very delicate machinery!
Without it, I can't keep in touch with my X-Men!


Whoah! Killer fog!
That's a pretty cool mutant gift, huh, Beak?
My strobe eye is crap compared to this.
Martha says we better put Dust in here, Basilisk.
It...it doesn't feel right because Martha's voice has gotten all snotty, but she still says we better...
Oh. Okay...
You hold it open and I'll catch her with my eye.
UKK!


Crazy jihad!
Retreat!
Martha says we have to do what Mister Xorn says!
It's almost impossible to grasp hold of her consciousness in this form!
I need her to become coherent.
Help.
Help me, Professor X...
Lie down, Dust.
There...she's subdued.
I have her, Professor.
What a beach!
Hyukk!


He's near here, Henry. I know it! Scott gives off the most bizarre and aloof psychic radiation I've ever experienced.
But there's something wrong, Henry...he's found something out...
...a traitor at the Institute?
We have to get closer.
What? A traitor?
Tell him he's nuts.
What kind of traitor would let us fly all the way out here to save him?
BOOM!


ABOVE EARTH...
Professor?
Professor, did something just happen to Cerebra?
Professor?


Logan?


Get out, Jean.
Logan...what's happening here?
Get outta here, Jeannie!
It's a trap!
Don't you recognize this place?
Oh... Oh my God.
Asteroid M!


XAVIER'S...
Dust refused to renounce her religion...she was raised a Muslim in the Sunni tradition.
You were making her do those things in the Cerebra chamber--*weren't* you?
Xorn... why is that map *upside down?*
I tried to show her the errors in...
...I tried to tell her she was *wrong* to exalt spurious *faith* over her *species* loyalty...
It's a picture of the *future,* Charles...I call it *Planet X.*
I'm teaching my students to imagine *tomorrow,* and giving them the tools to *take* them there...
Let Sooraya *out* of the jar, Mister Xorn.
She's *very afraid.*


She has *reason* to be.
It's too late to stop it.
I've been educating the next generation of *terror*, right here under your *nose*.
MAGNETO WAS RIGHT
And as for these posters...
...these images are *inappropriate* for the school.
Not to mention *baffling*.
You've had it all to *yourself* for too long and nothing much has *changed*...has it, Charles?
Without guidance, without an effective creed, I've watched your "*dream*" run *rampant*, watched discipline *fail*.
It will all begin to happen very quickly now.
Xorn, what are you talking about?
CLUNK!
SWHT!
SWHT!


A man in an *iron* prison. A *star* for a brain?
I kept thinking it was too *obvious*, but still you *missed* it.
There *was* no *Feng Tu* mutant prison in China, Charles. I *assembled* it especially for the occasion.
Xorn.
Have you any idea how much I've *hated* this pretense? His simpering homilies, his Zen diaries, his sickening New Age passivity?
How long I've waited to do *this?*
Oh God!
This isn't happening! Don't do this!
NNGGH
He's crippled again, sir.
:Hyukk:
My *Nano-Sentinels* were gluing your spine together all this time.
I've been holding you *up*-- and now I'm *cutting your strings.*
You're such a *clever* man, Charles. But nowhere *near* as clever as you like to *think.*


But... but he's dead...
...how can he be...
He's trying to provoke a war!
Magneto's not dead!
MAGNETO SET US UP!

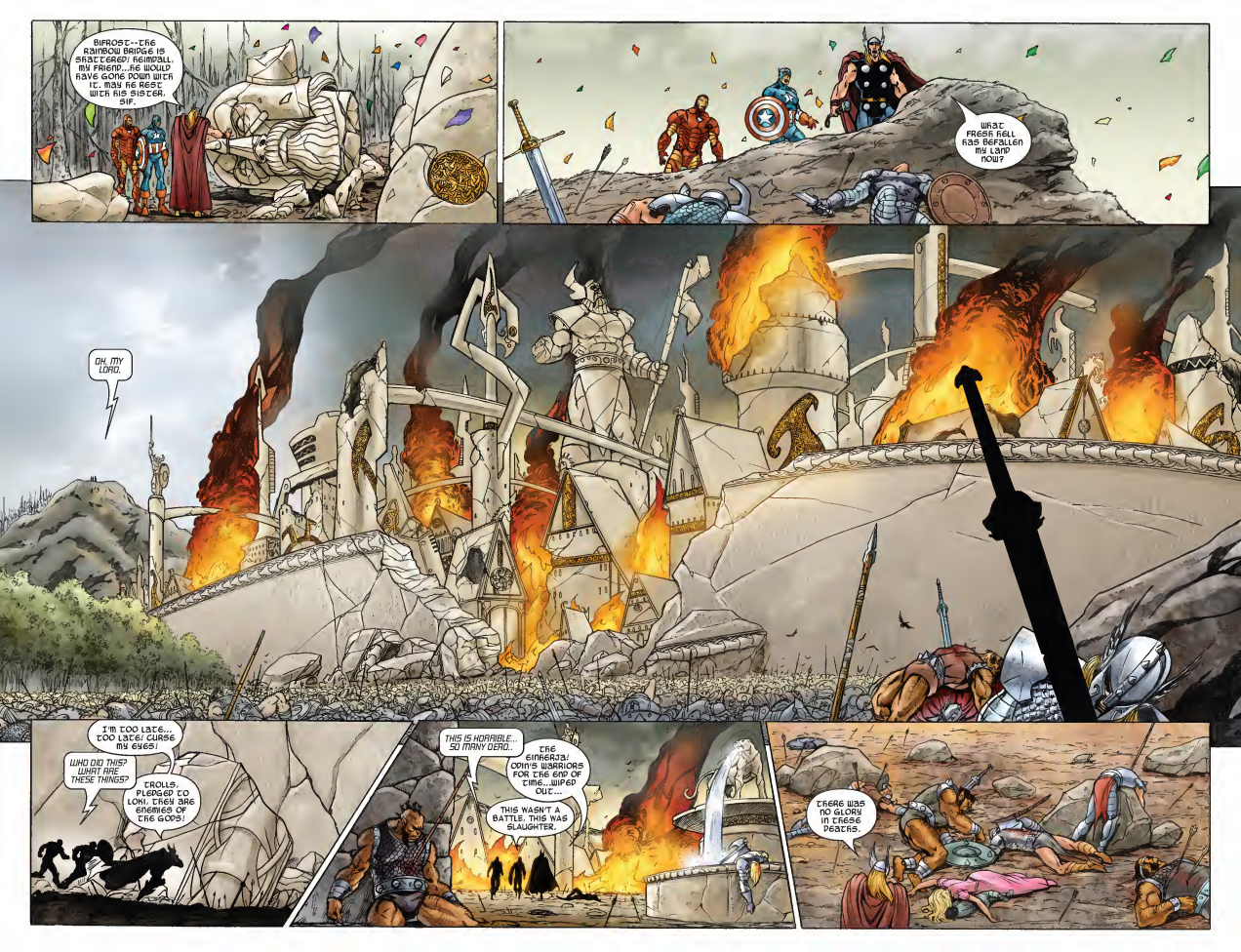

MAGNETO WAS RIGHT
X-Men emergency indeed, Charles...
...the dream is over.
TO BE CONTINUED


AVENGERS
DISASSEMBLED PROLOGUE
MARVEL
PSR 81 583
OEMING
DiVITO
VILLARI
RAGNAROK 2 OF 6
THOR



Ragnarok

Part The Second


BIFROST--THE RAINBOW BRIDGE IS SHATTERED! HEIMDALL, MY FRIEND...HE WOULD HAVE GONE DOWN WITH IT. MAY HE REST WITH HIS SISTER, SIF.
WHAT FRESH HELL HAS BEFALLEN MY LAND NOW?
OH, MY LORD.
I'M TOO LATE... TOO LATE! CURSE MY EYES!
WHO DID THIS? WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
TROLLS. PLEDGED TO LOKI. THEY ARE ENEMIES OF THE GODS!
THIS IS HORRIBLE... SO MANY DEAD...
THE EINHERJA! ODIN'S WARRIORS FOR THE END OF TIME...WIPED OUT...
THIS WASN'T A BATTLE. THIS WAS SLAUGHTER.
THERE WAS NO GLORY IN THESE DEATHS.


I'M NOT DETECTING ANY LIFE SIGNS...BUT MAYBE I CAN'T DETECT IMMORTALS...
WE ARE NOT TRULY IMMORTALS. WE WERE BORN INTO DOOM. FOR US, THERE IS NO AFTERLIFE, IN DEATH WE CEASE TO BE.
WAIT...
BACK UP, FELLAS. GIVE ME SOME ROOM.
COME HERE, SON, I WON'T HURT YOU.
THIS IS THE HORROR OF WAR.
TELL ME, CHILD, WHERE IS EVERYONE? WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?
THEY ARE DEAD, SOME RAN AWAY.
DON'T BE SILLY, CHILD, GODS DO NOT RUN! ESPECIALLY NOT FROM BATTLE!
WAS NO BATTLE, EVERYONE WAS CRUSHED. THEY COULDN'T FIGHT.
TROLLS DON'T CRUSH GODS!
NOT TROLLS...THEY CAME FIRST, THEN CAME...
...FYMER THE GIANT, FENRIS, ULIK AND LOKI!
WHO UTTERS MY NAME?
KABOOOOOM!!


BY THE GODS, I THOUGHT MY EARS WERE PLAYING TRICKS, MY BROTHER LIVES! WHAT A HAPPY GIFT! I GET TO KILL THE THUNDER GOD TWICE!
DESTRRRROOOOYYY!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO OUR HOME, LOKI?!
I'VE DONE WHAT I WAS DESTINED TO DO, BOY. ASGARD IS MINE TO RULE!
HAH! THE AVENGERS ASSEMBLED...IT IS FITTING THAT I CRUSH YOUR FELLOWSHIP...AS IT WAS FORMED TO PUT A STOP TO ME SO MANY YEARS AGO!
COME DOWN AND FACE ME, LOKI! I WILL DEAL YOUR FINAL FATE!
HAHAHAHAHAHA! OH, LORD OF THUNDER, WHAT A SIGHT YOU ARE WITH YOUR BROKEN TOY! HAHAHA!
CAP, GET THE KID OUT OF HERE.
ROGER.


FEEL THE BITE OF MY TOOTH HAMMER AGAIN, GODLING!
IRON MAN, BREAK THE CHAIN THAT HOLDS ULIK, I CAN USE IT--
FOOLS! THIS IS THE CHAIN THAT ONCE BOUND MY WOLF-SON, THE UNBREAKABLE CHAIN OF FENRIS!
LITTLE MORTALS SHOULD NOT PLAY WITH THE THINGS OF THE GODS!
THOOM
STAY HERE, SON, AND YOU'LL BE SAFE. WHEN THEY CAME BEFORE-- HOW DID ULIK GET THOSE WOUNDS?
FROM OLD IRON WEAPONS. IRON IS BAD FOR TROLLS.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THERE IS SOME IRON?
I HAVE THIS.


BOOM!
KRRRAA!
COME, MY BOY, YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT! DON'T DISGRACE THE FAMILY!
RAARR!
URGH?!
SHAMEFUL.


BLAST!!
RRRaaaaaa! KIIIILLLLL!
UUUGGH!
CAP! NO, DON'T!
AAAAAA!


NOOOO!
AAAAAGGGGHHH!!
THE BIGGER THEY ARE...
ENOUGH! FEEL THE WRATH OF THE MIGHTY LOKI! FATHER TO WOLF AND SNAKE, CRUSHER OF YMIR-KRUL AND WIELDER OF THE TRUE MJOLNIR!
ERGH...
THOOM!
WHOA!

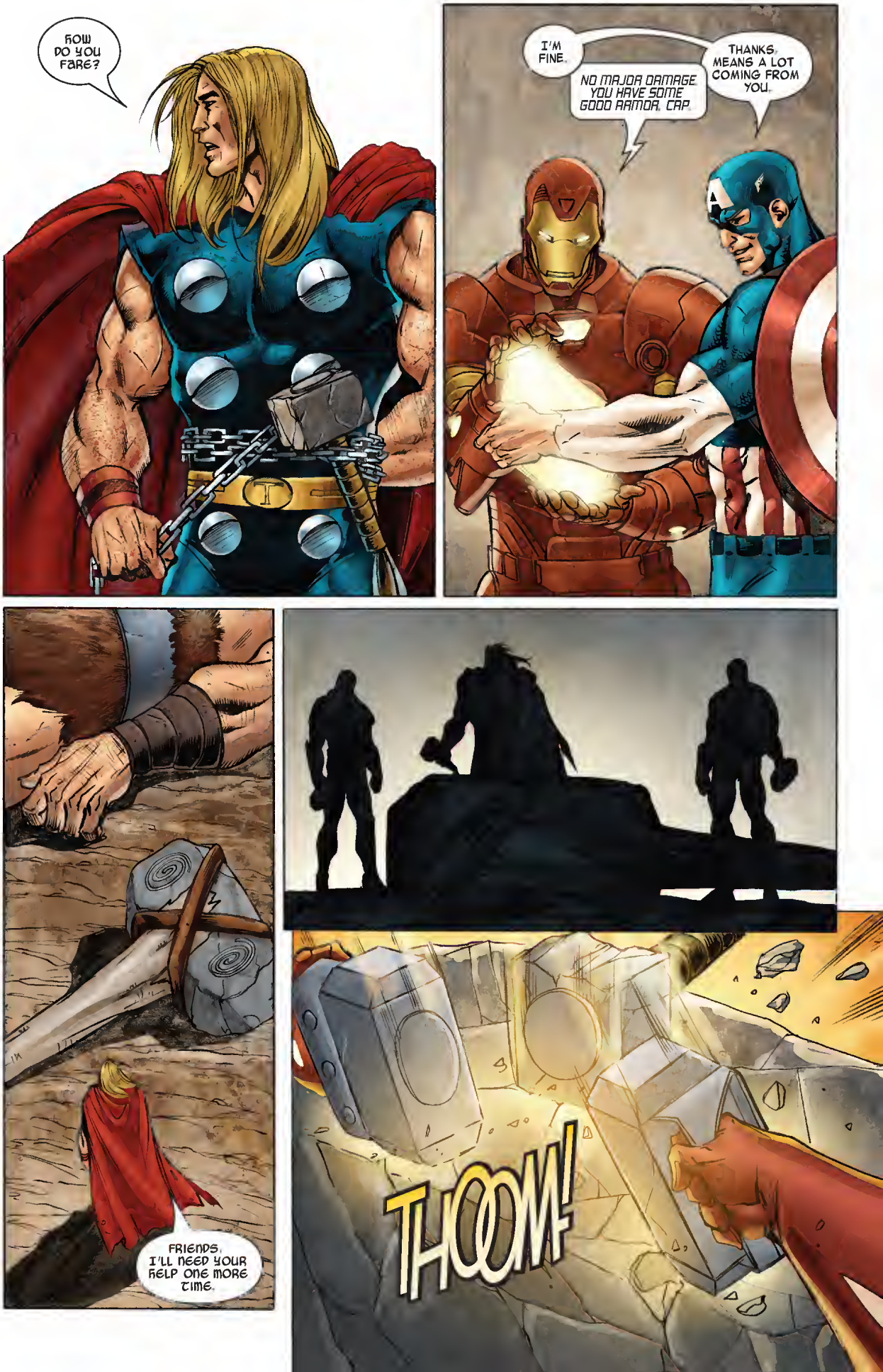

AGH! IMPRESSIVE, MORTAL!
THOOM!
BAD MOVE, FREAK!
WHA--?
BOOM!
KRAKATHOOOM!
KAFF- CURSED IRON...




PULL IT TOGETHER-- THIS IS ALL I'VE GOT!

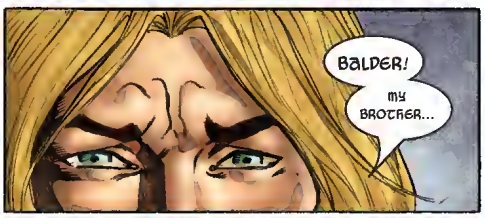


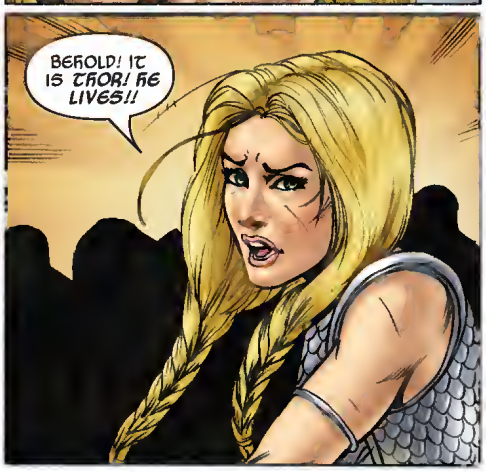

RRRRRaaaaGGHH!
RUFF!
STILL THE MIGHTY THOR, EVEN WITHOUT YOUR HAMMER.
ONLY THANKS TO YOU, MY FRIENDS.


HOW DO YOU FARE?
I'M FINE.
NO MAJOR DAMAGE. YOU HAVE SOME GOOD ARMOR, CAP.
THANKS. MEANS A LOT COMING FROM YOU.
FRIENDS, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP ONE MORE TIME.
THOOM!

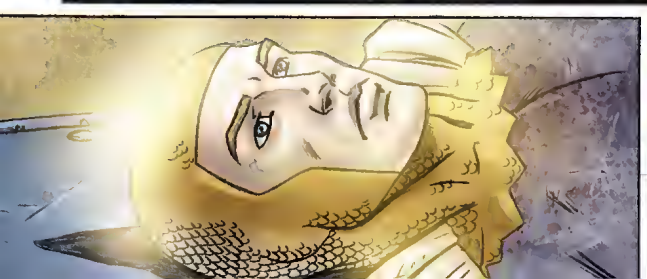

DO YOU HEAR THAT...IS IT SINGING?
I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING, MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING. YOU SHOULD TRY WEARING A HELMET WHEN SOMEONE IS BEATING IT WITH A GIANT HAMMER.
THAT SONG... IS A LAMENT... A FUNERAL!

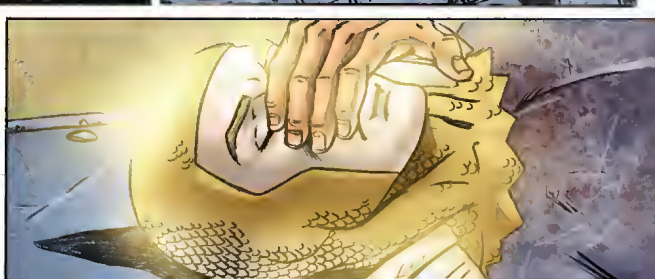



BALDER!
MY BROTHER...


BEHOLD! IT IS THOR! HE LIVES!!








LORD THOR...
HAROKIN! BARBARIAN, BRAVE WARRIOR, WHOM I'VE FOUGHT AGAINST AND BESIDE...TELL ME, HOW DID HE FALL?
FIRST CAME AN ARMY OF TROLLS. THEY SWARMED OVER THE CITY LIKE ANTS. WE WERE OUTNUMBERED, BUT OUR BATTLE FRENZY SERVED US WELL. YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD... BUT THEN...
...LOKI, ON THE SHOULDERS OF A GIANT--ULIK AND FENRIS WITH HIM! THEY EACH HAD HAMMERS! HAMMERS LIKE...
I KNOW.
THEN CAME THE DEAD FROM HELL ON THE BOAT NAGLFAR MADE FROM THE FINGERNAILS OF DEAD WARRIORS. EACH WAS ARMED WITH A SPEAR, ITS HEAD MADE OF MISTLETOE DIPPED IN GOLD...
...AND THE GOLDEN ONE FELL.


WHERE IS OUR MOTHER? WHERE IS FRIGGA?


FRIENDS, IF THERE WERE TIME, I WOULD HAVE BARDS WRITE EPICS ABOUT OUR BROTHERHOOD. I WOULD ARRANGE THE STARS TO HONOR THE POWER OF IRON MAN, THE MORALITY AND STRENGTH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA!
BUT THERE IS NO TIME LEFT FOR US HERE.
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU, THOR. FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED US!
WE CAN ASSEMBLE THE OTHERS!
THERE IS AVENGING TO BE DONE THIS DAY, BUT NOT FOR THE AVENGERS. TELL MY BROTHERS ON EARTH OF MY LOVE FOR THEM.
NO WAY, THOR. WE'RE IN THIS TILL THE END!
NAY! THIS IS THE AGE OF AXE AND BLOOD. THIS IS MY TIME, NOT YOURS. YOU MUST FORGIVE ME, MY BROTHERS--

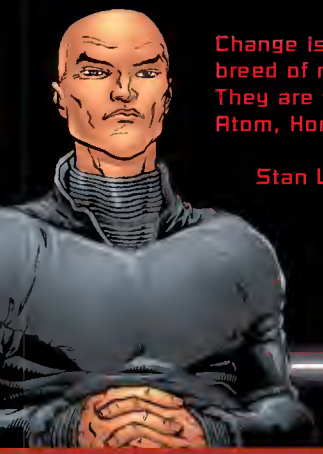

THOR, WAIT!
NO!
IF YOU WERE TO PERISH IN THIS PAGAN LAND, I COULD NOT FORGIVE MYSELF! GUARD EARTH, AND KNOW THAT IF LOKI SETS FOOT THERE, IT IS WAR FOR YOU!
DO NOT LET EARTH FALL!
THAKKA-KOOM!
GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS, MY BROTHERS... AVENGERS.


BROTHERS! WARRIORS OF ODIN, VALKYRIES, GODS OF THE AESIR AND VANIR!
WE HAVE WALKED INTO THE HALLS OF DEATH MANY TIMES--ENDURED THE SHADOW OF OUR *END* FOR AGES! WE THOUGHT THE END HAD COME WHEN THE ODINSWORD WAS DRAWN AND MY FATHER FELL--BUT NOW WE KNOW...
...THE UNBINDING OF FENRIS AND BALDER'S DEATH HEARKEN *RAGNAROK!*


MARCH NOW TO THE DOOM OF DOOMS!
TO THE END OF ALL THINGS-- TO THE BREAKING OF SWORDS AND SHIELDS, TO THE DYING OF BROTHERS, AND THE RECKONING OF ENEMIES!
WE FIGHT FOR THE HONOR OF A WARRIOR'S DEATH AND FOR GLORY TO ASGARD!



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Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom, Homo superior.

Stan Lee presents...

NEW X-MEN



PLANET X 2 of 5



MAGNETO
Erik Magnus Lensherr (formerly XORN)
Magnetic Control



BEAK
Barnell Bohusk
Wings/Flight



ANGEL
Angel Salvadore
Wings/Flight



EANST
Super-Strength



BASILISK
Strobe Pulse Blast



TOAD
Mortimer Toynbee
Leaping/Acid Tongue



ESME
Stepford Cuckoo
Telepath



MARTHA JOHANSSON
Mutant Brain
Telepath/
Power Suppressor

PREVIOUSLY



Writer
Grant Morrison

Penciler & Cover
Phil Jimenez

Inker
Andy Lanning

Colorist
Chris Chuckry

Letterer
Virtual Calligraphy's
Rus Wooton

Assistant Editor
Annie Thornton

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Mere days ago, CYCLOPS and FANTOMEX accompanied WOLVERINE to an orbiting space station, the hidden site of the Weapon Plus Program. There, the long-lost Weapon X files containing all the secrets of Wolverine's identity—involving his mysterious past and the time he spent as a living experiment within the Program—were finally revealed to him. But the shocking truth was too much to handle, even for a seasoned X-Man like Wolverine. Faced with the disturbing reality of exactly who—and what—he was, a distraught Wolverine detonated a massive explosion that decimated the entire Weapon Plus space station—and himself along with it.

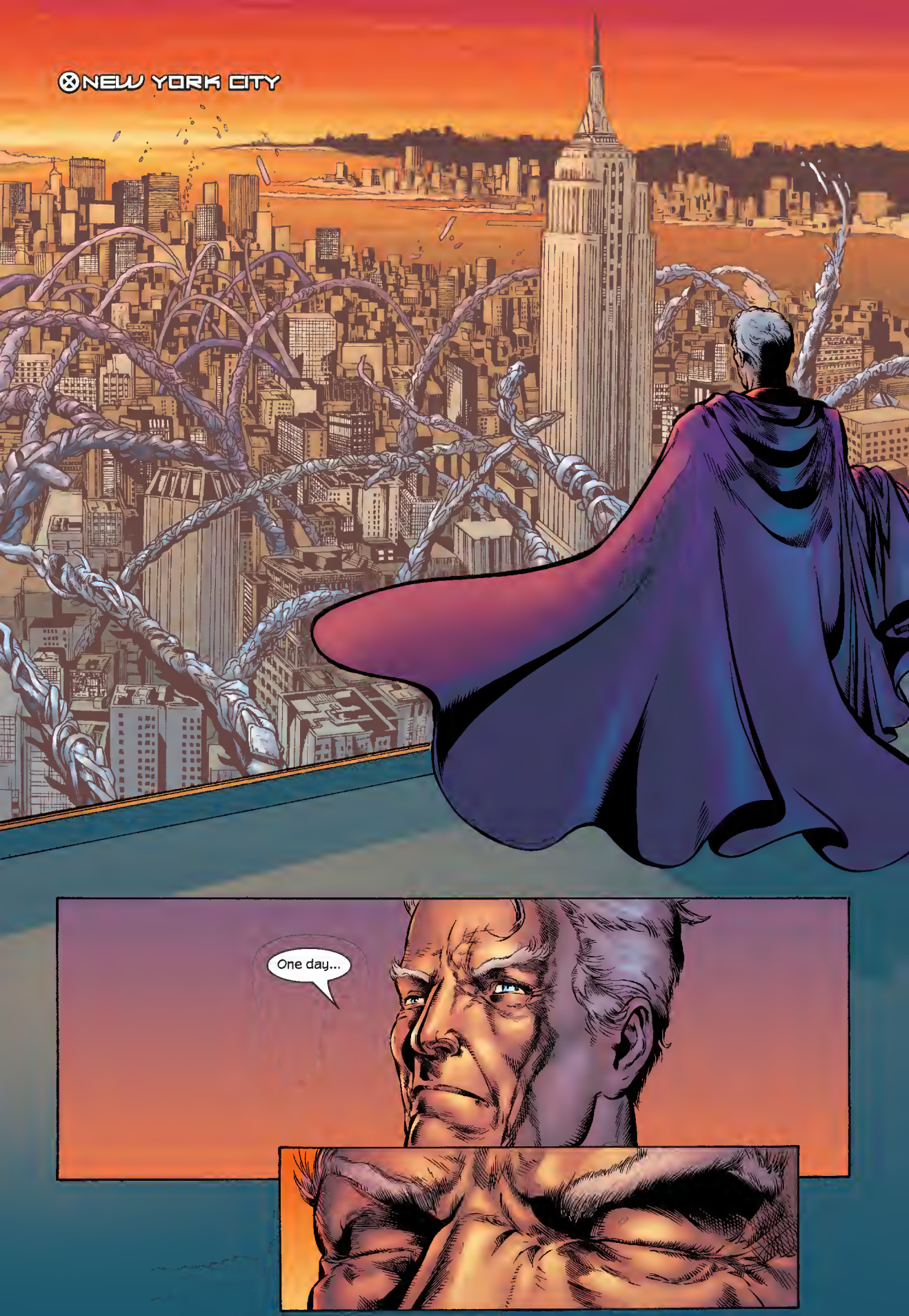
Watching the station—and his teammate—explode into a million pieces, Cyclops barely had enough time to react before the shuttle carrying him and Fantomex plummeted inexplicably toward the Pacific Ocean. X-Men teammates BEAST and EMMA FROST immediately flew off to search for Cyclops, but while en route to the crash site, their X-Plane exploded without warning.

Later, JEAN GREY used the Phoenix Force to determine that Wolverine was still alive, and quickly located him on a somewhat familiar yet abandoned asteroid complex. Soon after, the two X-Men slowly realized that someone had set them up and lured them to Asteroid M...the former headquarters of one of their greatest foes. But before they could escape, an intense explosion ripped through the station, shattering everything—and everyone—in its path.

With all of the X-Men effectively neutralized, things at the Xavier Institute deteriorated from bad to horrific. New student DUST lost control of her powers, unleashing a tempest that destroyed Cerebra and cut PROFESSOR XAVIER off from his X-Men. Mutant healer XORN rushed to the scene, but instead of helping the fallen Professor, he began to rant about the failure of Xavier's dream and his own unique vision of the future. A vision of terror. Of vengeance.

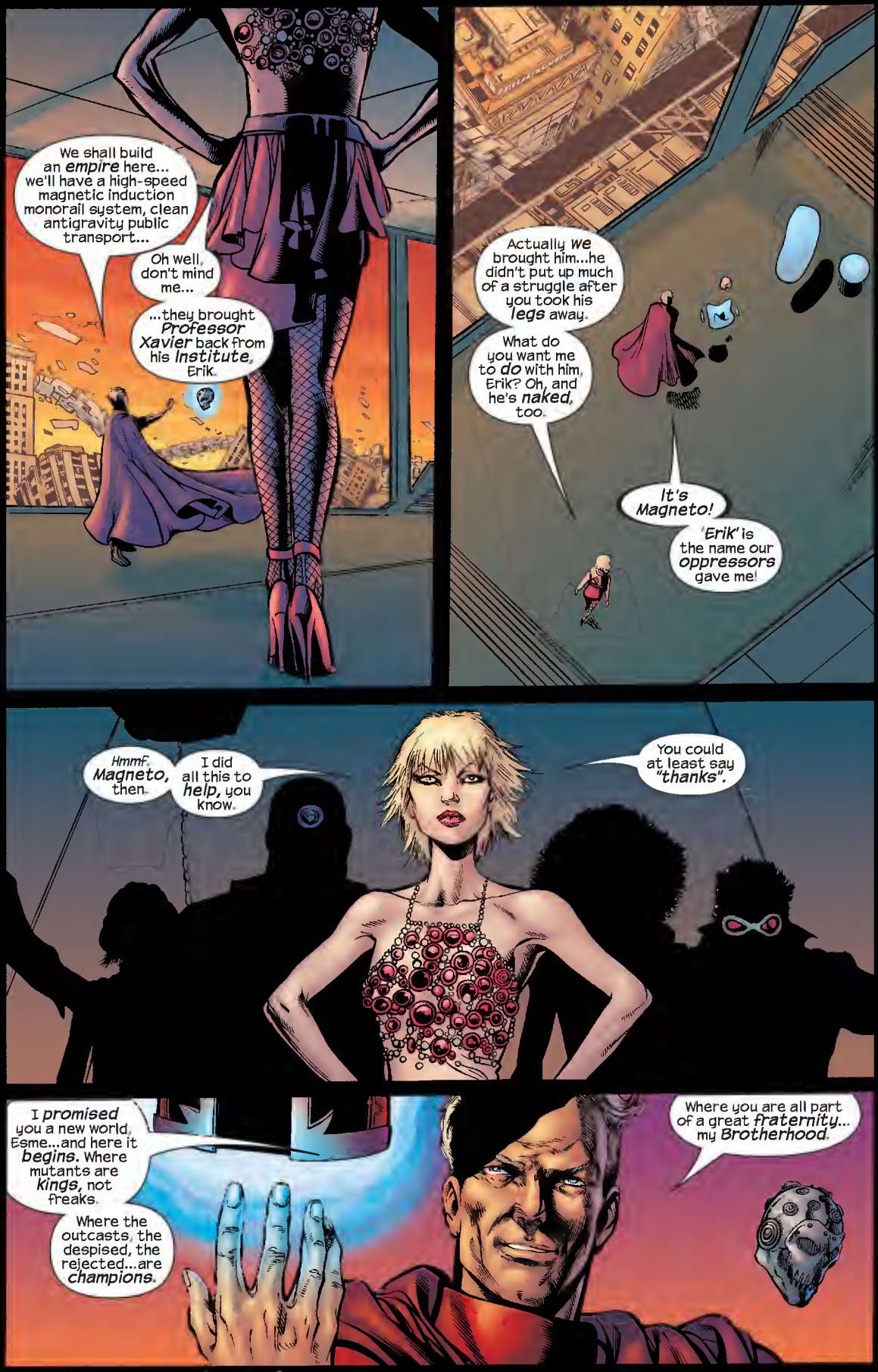
Who is behind the destruction of the X-Men? The same villain who has been hiding behind Xorn's mask these many months—MAGNETO, the Master of Magnetism!

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NEW YORK CITY
One day...




I did it all in *one day*.
I'll call it *New Genosha*, rising like an accusation.
Or better yet...a *promise*.
Was this *worth* all those long months sweating under the inscrutable mask of the simpering *'Xorn'*?
Biding my *time*?
Was it *worth* all the time spent eating away at Charles Xavier's school from *within*?
Tearing the *X-Men* apart and slowly *killing* them, one by one...?


We shall build an empire here... we'll have a high-speed magnetic induction monorail system, clean antigravity public transport...
Oh well, don't mind me...
...they brought Professor Xavier back from his Institute, Erik.
Actually we brought him...he didn't put up much of a struggle after you took his legs away.
What do you want me to do with him, Erik? Oh, and he's naked, too.
It's Magneto!
'Erik' is the name our oppressors gave me!
Hmmf. Magneto, then.
I did all this to help, you know.
You could at least say "thanks".
I promised you a new world, Esme...and here it begins. Where mutants are kings, not freaks.
Where the outcasts, the despised, the rejected...are champions.
Where you are all part of a great fraternity... my Brotherhood.



MAGNETO SUPERIOR
PLANET X
PART 2 OF 5

GRANT MORRISON
WRITER

PHIL JIMENEZ
PENCILER

ANDY LANNING
INKER

CHRIS CHUCKRY
COLORIST

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

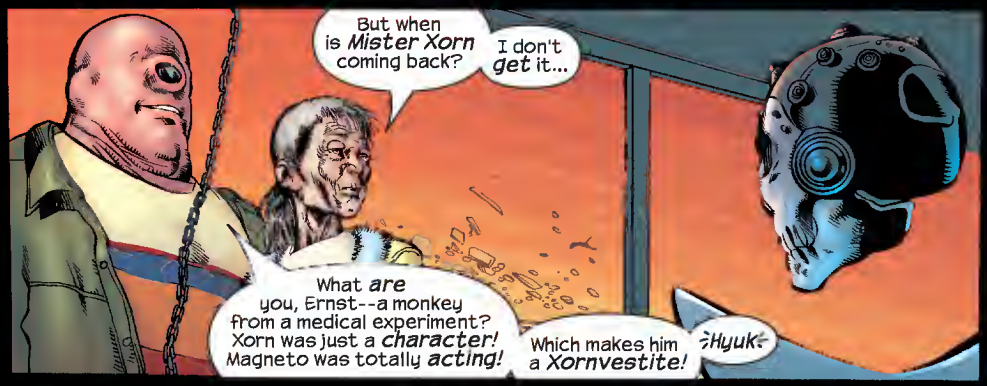
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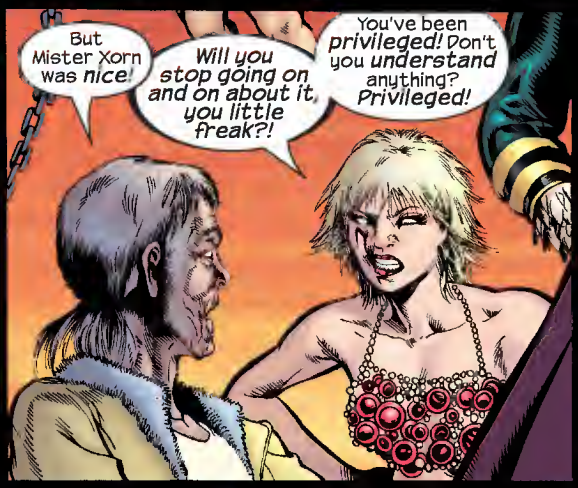
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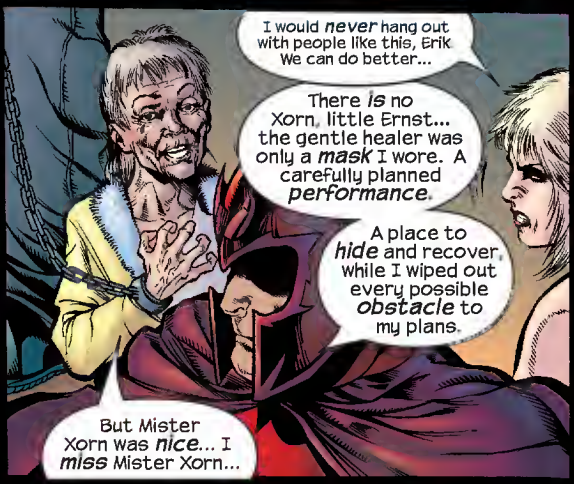
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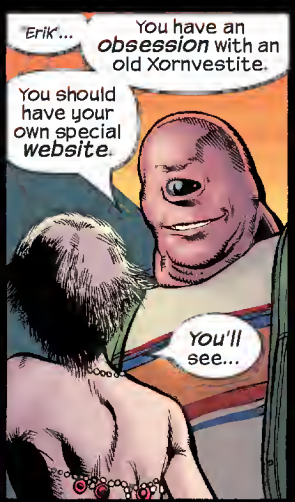

PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER
NEUTRALIZED
HENRY MCCOY
- BEAST -
MISSING IN ACTION
SCOTT SUMMERS
- CYCLOPS -
MISSING IN ACTION
LOGAN
- WOLVERINE -
MISSING IN ACTION
JEAN GREY
- PHOENIX -
MISSING IN ACTION
EMMA FROST
- WHITE QUEEN -
MISSING IN ACTION


But when is *Mister Xorn* coming back?
I don't *get* it...
What *are* you, Ernst--a monkey from a medical experiment? Xorn was just a *character!* Magneto was totally *acting!*
Which makes him a *Xornvestite!*
:Hyuk:


But Mister Xorn was *nice!*
Will you stop going on and on about it, you little freak?!
You've been *privileged!* Don't you *understand* anything? *Privileged!*


I would *never* hang out with people like this, Erik. We can do better...
There *is* no Xorn, little Ernst... the gentle healer was only a *mask* I wore. A carefully planned *performance.*
A place to *hide* and recover while I wiped out every possible *obstacle* to my plans.
But Mister Xorn was *nice*... I *miss* Mister Xorn...


Where did you *find* these losers, boss?
We build our armies where we *can,* Toad...
...we were *all* losers... *once.*
Remember?


"Erik"...
You have an *obsession* with an old Xornvestite.
You should have your own special *website.*
You'll see...


...I have *nothing* in common with *any* of you.
He's going to be *king of the world* this time! He worked this *whole* thing out and I *helped* him!


You'll all see!
He needs me more than any of you!
Ooooh!
BROTHER MUTANTS.
THE GREAT DAY HAS COME.
MY REACH IS LONG NOW...
...THE SENTIMENTAL MESSAGE I LEFT MANKIND UPON MY "DEATH" WAS ACTUALLY A VIRUS DESIGNED TO CRIPPLE ALL ELECTROMAGNETIC TECHNOLOGY!
Where did you find this crowd, Toad?
They're hardly reacting!
A lot of people aren't really sure what's happened yet, boss...and...and the speakers are distorting your voice...
...you've been declared dead so often... it's...
...I just don't think they know it's really you...


They don't believe it's me?
Did no one tell them my name?
MAGNETO?
MASTER OF MAGNETISM?


AN END.
AN END TO FEAR. AN END TO HIDING.
AN END TO MAN.
That's good.
But...
What's happening?
Toad!
They're all looking away!
Cuz no one can see you all the way up here, boss...


Work the crowd for me, Toad.
I need some...some *water*...
Esme!
What?!
They won't listen to *me!*
What am I supposed to *do?* Sing *anti-human* songs?
They lose interest so *quickly* now...I can barely finish a *sentence*...
They have short attention spans and high expectations...
...they want to see the world's most charismatic terrorist at the *height* of his powers.
They want you the way you *used* to be.
Or... preferably *better.*
Kick can take you there.
Yes... well...
...the mutant power *performance enhancer*...
...just this *once* more.


We...will... we will replace the old ways with...
...new ways...shiny new ways...
Get outta here!
We want Magneto! Prove it!
URRR
STAND ASIDE, TOAD!
SIXTEEN MILLION MUTANTS WERE EXTERMINATED IN GENOSHA.
SIXTEEN MILLION POTENTIAL WARRIORS, LEADERS, SCIENTISTS!
MURDERED BY MAN.


UNABLE TO FLY, UNABLE TO BURROW OR CRAWL WITHOUT THE AID OF MACHINE MONSTERS, THE HUMAN GERM THREATENS ALL LIFE.
WITH ITS CRINGING FEAR OF EVERYTHING IT CANNOT UNDERSTAND, WITH ITS GREED FOR OIL TO POWER THE MACHINES IT NEEDS TO SURVIVE, THE HUMAN DISEASE HAS CONSUMED THE WORLD! UNCHECKED!
I AM MAGNETO. I DO NOT ISSUE DEMANDS HERE TODAY.
NOTHING THE HUMANS DO CAN CHANGE WHAT IS TO HAPPEN.
THIS IS HOW IT WILL BE.
NATURE ITSELF HAS TRIGGERED AN EXTINCTION SEQUENCE IN THE HUMAN GENOME-- HUMANKIND IS DYING!
AS THE AGENTS OF EVOLUTION, WE MUTANTS MUST DELIVER THE MERCY STROKE.


XAVIER AND HIS X-MEN WANTED US TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN MAN AND MUTANT!
BUT WE CAN FLY AND SWIM AND LEAP!
WE WILL HAVE NO NEED FOR BRIDGES!




WE WILL HAVE NO NEED FOR HUMAN LAWS OR HUMAN OPINIONS.
OR HUMAN BEINGS.


LATER THAT EVENING...
I'm pushing the humans along with my *mind*-- the whip's just for show...
Push me around with a whip anytime...
SLLTHHT!
KILL THE HUMAN FLATSCAN!
GRRKK
Only a total *drug addict* could think this up.
Magneto really *hates* people, doesn't he?
This is *terrible.*
This is *terrible.*


I wish I could exterminate them *all*...all at once, but...
...one can hardly expect *mutants* to clean the sewers or carry away our trash in the midst of this great transition to a *new* way of life.
These creatures have no *desire* to integrate, Charles. They never have!
I worked it all out. Waiting.
"Meditating".
Your pacifist *"Institute"* is where I train my *soldiers* now... a place for young warriors to be indoctrinated with a burning hatred and contempt for the gentically impure.
You *remember* the Institute, don't you?
I had to redesign it a little, but it's made *all* the difference...




So tell me I was *right*, Charles...tell me now or tell me *later*.
Because you will in the *end*...
TO BE CONTINUED



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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents...

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS DISASSEMBLED

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#500

"CHAOS"

PART ONE OF FOUR





IRON MAN
Tony Stark
The Armored Avenger



WASP
Janet Van Dyne
Size-Changing Heroine



YELLOWJACKET
Dr. Henry Pym
Size-Shifting Scientist



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Steve Rogers
Living Legend of World War II



SCARLET WITCH
Wanda Maximoff
Mutant Mistress of Probability



HAWKEYE
Clint Barton
Marksman Extraordinary



THE VISION
Density-Altering Android



THE FALCON
Sam Wilson
High-Flying Crusader



SHE-HULK
Jenniter Walters
Gamma-Powered Party Girl



ANT-MAN
Scott Lang
Diminutive Master of the Insects



CAPTAIN BRITAIN
Kelsey Leigh
Protector of Avalon



BLACK PANTHER
T'Challa
Cat-Like Chieftain of Wakanda

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VIPER.
REALLY.
REALLY?
MADAME HYDRA?
3111
MADAME HYDRA. VIPER. WHATEVER. YES.
THE ONE WITH THE GREEN HAIR?
YES, MY DEAR ANT-MAN.
THE ONE WITH THE SEXY GREEN HAIR AND GREEN LEATHER.
YOU HAVE A THING FOR HER?
I REALLY DO.
YOU'RE A PIG, HAWKEYE.
JANET, AM I WRONG? IS HE BEING A PIG?
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, JENNIFER.
NO, YOU ARE NOT WRONG. AND YES, HE IS A PIG.
SEE?


HE ASKED ME WHO MY NUMBER ONE "CAN'T HAVE" IS--
WHAT?
MY CAN'T HAVE. WHO'S THE ONE GIRL YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T HAVE BUT--
AND HE SAID VIPER.
WHO IS THAT? I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT--
MADAME HYDRA.
UH... EEEW.
MUST BE ALL THE GREEN.
WELL, AREN'T YOU JUST--
PUT IT ON HOLO!
SECURITY BREACH. GROUND LEVEL. BACK COURT. LEVEL RED.


NO.
OH, LORD.
IS IT REALLY HIM?
IT CAN'T BE.
I SAW IT MYSELF. I SAW HIM DIE.
JACK OF HEARTS DIED. HE JUST DIED, RIGHT?
COMPUTER, CONFIRM I.D. IS THAT JACK HART?
I SAW IT MYSELF.
I.D. CONFIRMED, JACK HART. JACK OF HEARTS. AVENGER, DECEASED. FILE INACTIVE AS OF MAY 5TH OF THIS YEAR. CODE RED. ACTIVE AVENGERS ALERT INSTATED.
YEAH YEAH...
...AVENGERS ASSEMBLE.
FULL ALERT.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
COMPUTER? RADIATION LEVEL ANALYSIS?
ANT-MAN!
SCOTT! DON'T!


JACK! JACK?!
IT'S ME! SCOTT!
JACK? WHAT HAPPENED?
HOW ARE YOU HERE? HOW ARE YOU ALIVE?
I THOUGHT YOU *DIED* SAVING MY DAUGHTER. I--I SAW IT MYSELF.
I JUST-- I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD DO THAT, AND TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS--IT'S...
JACK...?
JACK, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE--
I'M SORRY.




=COUGH=
=COUGH=
IS--IS EVERYONE OKAY?
I--I CAN'T BREATHE.
CAPTAIN?
I'M--I'M JUST SHAKEN. I'M--
HAWKEYE. TAKE POINT.
POINT OF WHAT?
SCOTT?
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT'S HAPPENED?


SCOTT?
OH SWEET LORD...
SCOTT...


MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
I STAND BEFORE YOU AS TONY STARK AND IRON MAN.
AS A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD AND AS AN AVENGER.
AS BOTH THE UNITED STATES' SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND AN INDUSTRIALIST MEMBER OF THE WORLD ECONOMY.
WE MEET IN A HALL DEVOTED TO PEACE, IN A WORLD OFTEN ROCKED BY UNTHINKABLE VIOLENCE...
EVERY CIVILIZED NATION IS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY... AND WE ARE *RESOLVED* TO KEEP THE MOST BASIC COMMITMENT OF CIVILIZATION
TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND OUR FUTURE AGAINST TERROR AND LAWLESS VIOLENCE.
AND TODAY THE UNITED NATIONS WILL START THE PROCESS OF REDEFINING THE ROLE OF THE COSTUMED AVENGER AS A-- UGH...
ACHEM...
I--
LATVERIA
LATVERIA

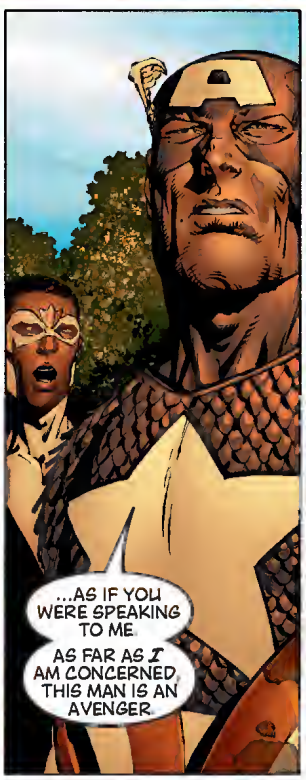

I'M SORRY, I JUST --
I LOOK OUT TO THE CROWD HERE...
AND HERE YOU ALL ARE... ALL DRESSED UP AND FANCY, AND THERE'S THIS...
THIS GUY...
RIGHT HERE, FRONT ROW.
THIS GUY.
THIS "ESTEEMED" DELEGATE FROM LATVERIA.
GOT HIMSELF A FRONT ROW SEAT AND EVERYTHING.
HOW DO YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SIT THERE?
I THOUGHT THESE SEATS WERE FOR HUMAN BEINGS.
I MEAN, HOW MANY TIMES DO WE, AS A WORLD, HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOUR CRAP?
YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE.
YA RAT FINK.
YOU KNOW WHAT A RAT FINK IS, PALLY? YOU SHOULD... LATVERIA INVENTED THEM!!
LOOK IT UP IN THE DICTIONARY, YOU'LL SEE YOUR FACE...
OR THE FACE OF YOUR PUPPET MASTER, OR WHATEVER EVIL $$%^ IS PULLING YOUR STRINGS THIS WEEK.
WE SHOULD TAKE A VOTE -- YEAH!!
LET'S ALL TAKE A VOTE RIGHT NOW TO JUST WIPE YOUR COUNTRY OFF THE MAP ALREADY AND BUILD AN AMUSEMENT PARK OUT OF THE WHOLE THING AND CALL IT A DAY.
TONY...
DON'T!!
WHAT ARE YOU --
OH, WHAT? I'M THE JERK NOW?
WE WERE ALL THINKING IT.
TONY, JUST CALM --
GET OFF ME, PYM!
I MEAN, LOOK AT HIM. LATVERIAN TRASH STINKING UP THE WHOLE -- HE LOOKS LIKE A RAT.
TONY, I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU STEP DOWN NOW AND --
CORK IT, T'CHALLA.
SEE, WHAT I WOULD LOVE TO DO IS...
...PUT HIM OUT OF OUR MISERY RIGHT NOW...


TONY, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
STARK! KNOW THIS... IF YOU DO THIS...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
SHHHUT UP...
TONY?!
DON'T YOU HAVE A WIFE TO BEAT??
GET OUTTA MY NOSE, MAN!!!


UM, UH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I -- I OFFER YOU, UM, OUR SINCEREST APOLOGIES...
LORD...
TONY? TONY, WHAT *WAS* THAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
WANDA, I'M -- I *KNOW* THIS FEELING. I KNOW --
I THINK I'M DRUNK.
YOU DRANK? OH, TONY...
I DON'T --
YOU'VE BEEN SOBER FOR SO LONG.
WANDA, I DIDN'T HAVE *ANYTHING* TO DRINK.
beeee

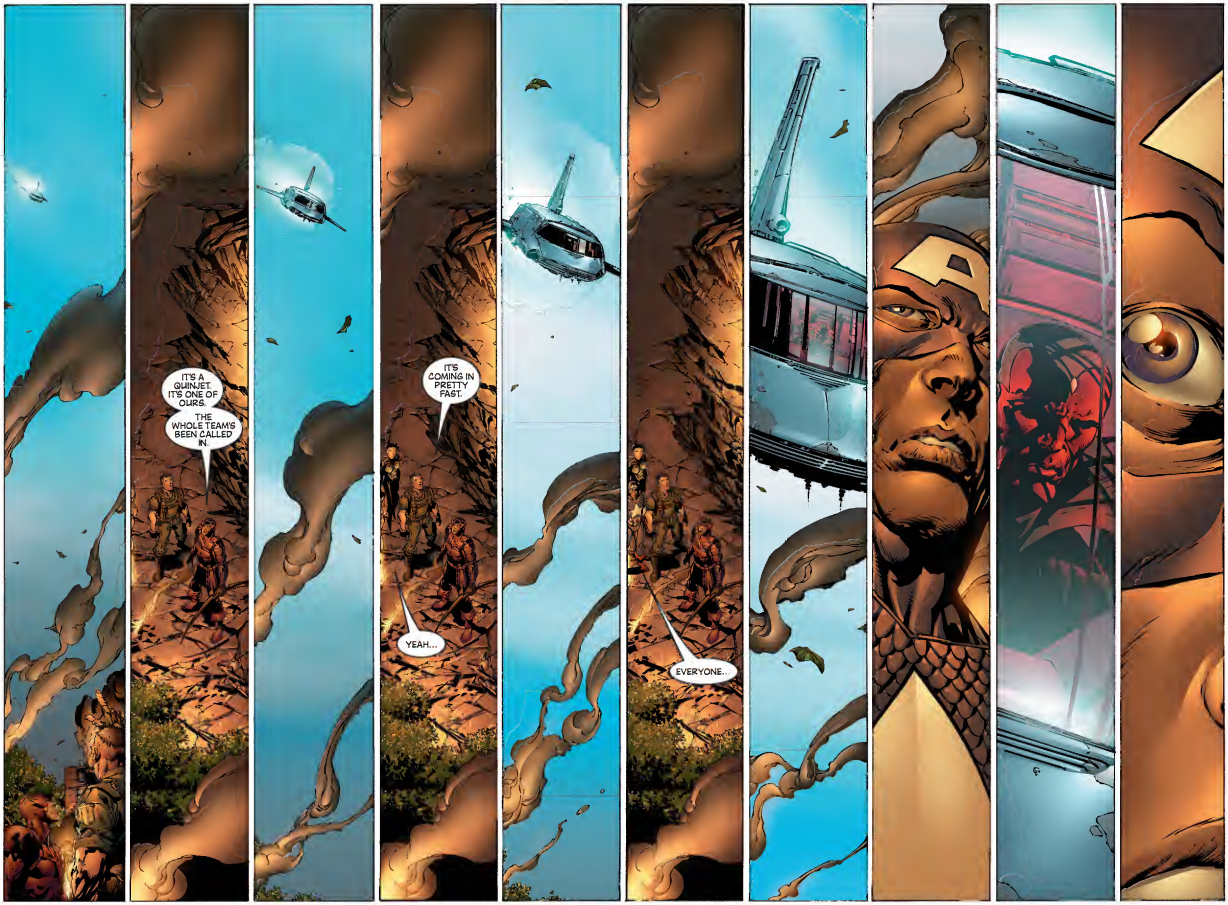

MS. WASP, MA'AM, I THINK YOU SHOULD WAIT FOR NICK FURY TO GET HERE
LISTEN TO ME. THERE MIGHT BE LETHAL RADIATION FROM THE BLAST WE ALL MIGHT BE --
MA'AM, WE CHECKED THAT BEFORE WE LANDED. S.H.I.E.L.D. POLICY IS TO ALWAYS CHECK ATMOSPHERIC --
THIS IS A S.H.I.E.L.D. MATTER. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MANSION GROUNDS.
YOU AND YOUR MEN TALK TO THE CIVVIES. SEE IF THEY SAW ANYTHING --
MA'AM, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE IN SHOCK. WHY DON'T YOU --
BUT JACK HART WAS HALF ALIEN. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE BROUGHT --


ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING?
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT I WOULD RATHER YOU TENDED TO --
LISTEN, PAPPY. THERE'S A LOT TO DO HERE. JUST TELL ME WHERE IT HURTS SO WE CAN --
YOU TALK TO THIS MAN...


...AS IF YOU WERE SPEAKING TO ME.
AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, THIS MAN IS AN AVENGER.


Y-YES CAPTAIN, SIR.
JARVIS, WHAT HAPPENED?
IT WOULD APPEAR, SIR, THAT WE HAVE EXPERIENCED A TRAGEDY WHICH WORDS CANNOT PROPERLY DESCRIBE.
MASTER SCOTT LANG HAS DIED, SIR, IN A MOST TERRIBLE WAY.
SOMEONE -- SOMEONE MUST CALL HIS YOUNG DAUGHTER.


UH -- WHO IS THAT?


IT'S A QUINJET. IT'S ONE OF OURS.
THE WHOLE TEAM'S BEEN CALLED IN.
IT'S COMING IN PRETTY FAST.
YEAH...
EVERYONE...






CAP...?


AVENGERS, I BID YOU TIDINGS, IN THIS, OUR DARKEST HOUR.
I AM SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT I AM NO LONGER IN CONTROL OF THE ORGANISMS THAT MAKE UP MY BODY STRUCTURE...
...AND THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER IN CONTROL OF ANYTHING THAT WE, AS A GROUP, HELD DEAR.
OR WHAT WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, HELD AS IMPORTANT...
OUR TIME IS OVER.
I CANNOT EXPLAIN TO YOU IN TERMS THAT ANY OF YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY AND HOW THIS HAS HAPPENED TO US...
...FOR I AM ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO COMPREHEND WHERE IT IS THAT WE, AS A GROUP, HAVE FAILED...
AND WHY WE ARE ABOUT TO BE PUNISHED.
VISION, WHAT'S HAPPENED? JUST TELL US WHAT IS--
DO KNOW THAT, THOUGH THIS WILL SEEM A BETRAYAL FROM ME...
...IT IS NOT I WHO BRINGS THIS =HURK= THIS PLAGUE UPON YOU.
DO KNOW THAT I FEEL AN OVERWHELMING SHAME FOR... WHAT NOW MUST =HURK!=


POP
THUMP
AVENGERS---
POP
POP
POP
POP
FALL BACK!



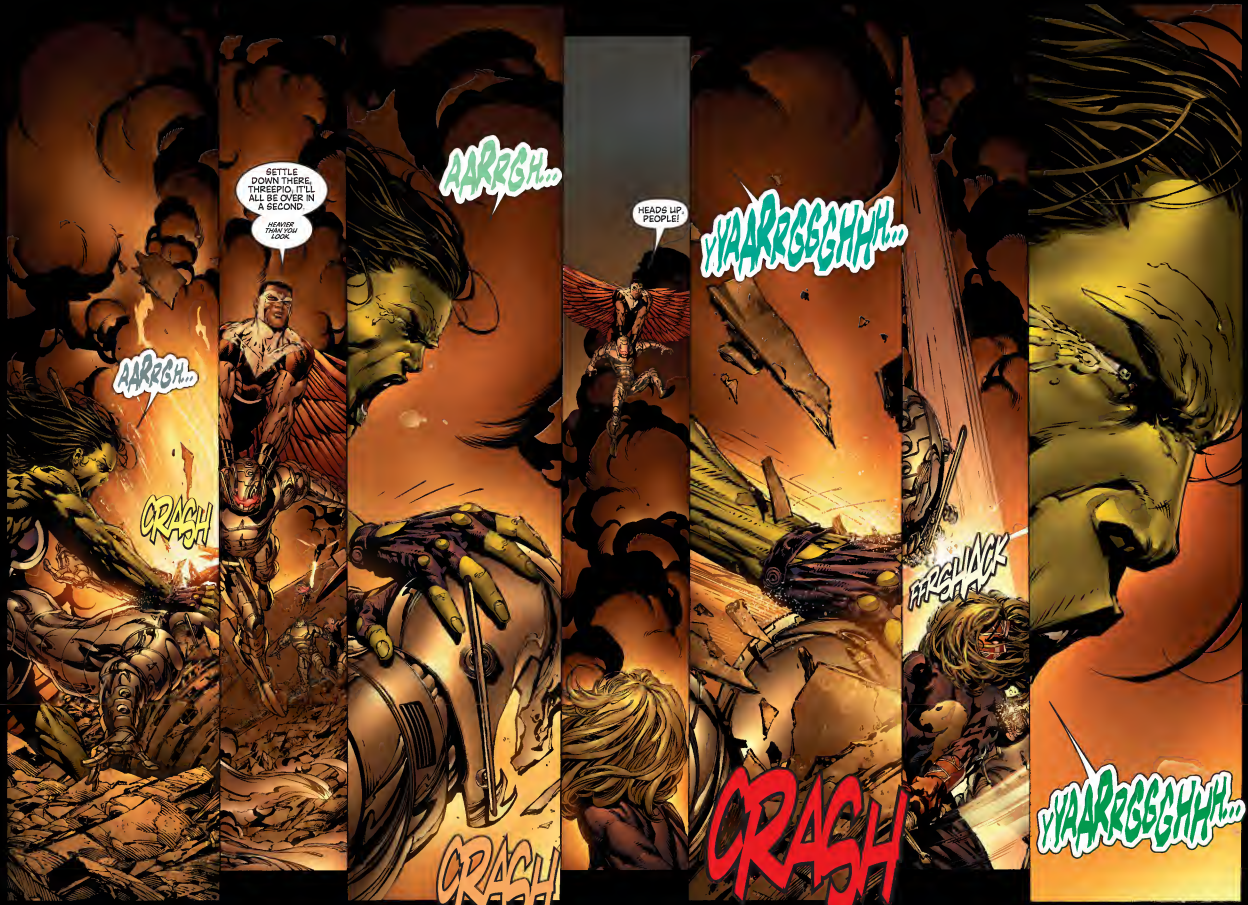

I SAID FALL BACK!!
FALL BACK WHERE?
AAGGH!!
THIS IS A NIGHTMARE!!
IS THIS A BAD TIME TO HAND IN MY RESIGNATION?
GGAARRGH!! WHAT IS THIS??
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING??
FIVE ULTRON ROBOTS?
Y'KNOW, CALL ME A TRADITIONALIST, BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT ONE WAS PLENTY.


FUNK
FUNK
FUNK
FUNK
FUNK
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM


I HATE *THIS* ALTOGETHER.
WELL, I'M GOING TO END IT IN ABOUT FIFTY SECONDS!
WHY IS THIS *HAPPENING?* I FEEL LIKE I'VE GONE INSANE.
ARE THESE THINGS ALL CONNECTED?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.
I MEAN, WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH JACK OF HEARTS RETURNING FROM THE DEAD ONLY TO BLOW UP HALF THE MANSION AND KILL ANT-MAN?
AAARRGGHH!!
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND, THIS IS AGENT COLEMAN AT AVENGERS HQ. OVER?
RECEIVING.
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK BY MULTIPLE—
YOU'RE BREAKING UP.
JUST GET SOMEONE DOWN HERE!!!


YWHAOOHH! THANKS, CAPTAIN! THAT WAS CLOSE!
WELL, IF YOU HAVE A SHOT, TAKE IT!
FAKUNK


NNYYAARRGGGHHH!!
HIT 'EM IN THE NECK, AVENGERS!
NO HEAD, NO ULTRON.
AARRGGGHHH!!
NO HEAD, NO ULTRON. GOT IT.
ARE THEY SENDING BACKUP?
THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
I'M NOT TRAINED FOR ROBOTIC DEFENSE SYSTEMS.
SUCKS TO BE YOU.
CRASH


AARRGH...
CRASH
SETTLE DOWN THERE, THREEPIO, IT'LL ALL BE OVER IN A SECOND.
HEAVIER THAN YOU LOOK.
AARRGH...
CRASH
HEADS UP, PEOPLE!
YYAARRGGGHHH...
CRASH
YYAARRGGGHHH...


AAAARRGGH!
WAS THAT THE REAL ULTRON?
I CAN'T TELL. THE REAL ONE *DID* LIKE TO TALK AN *AWFUL* LOT.
SO, WAIT -- SO WE'RE TO BELIEVE THAT THE VISION HAD AN IMPLANTED WHAT? LIKE, AN IMPLANTED PROGRAM FROM ULTRON TO UNLEASH THIS ON US?
DAMN IT!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
THE VISION IS A SYNTHETIC ORGANISM. YEARS AGO, ULTRON CREATED THE VISION TO DESTROY US.
BUT HE BROKE HIS COMMAND CODES AND WE TOOK HIM IN. HE'S--
HE'S AN AVENGER. DON'T BE TOO --
I'M SO *SICK* OF THIS!!!
WHY? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!! WHY IS SCOTT LANG DEAD?
WHERE *ARE* YOU IN THERE??
WAKE UP AND TELL US *WHAT THIS IS??*


I JUST WATCHED AN AVENGER DIE!!
FOR NO GOOD REASON!!
AND THIS PIECE OF WHATEVER IT IS KNOWS WHY!! HE COMES DOWN HERE AND ATTACKS US??
NO!! THIS IS OUR HOME!!
WHY??
WHY WHY WHY WHYAAARRGH?!
PUT HIM DOWN AND CALM YOURSELF, JENNIFER. I MEAN IT.
IT'S NOT EVEN HUMAN!! IT'S JUST A THING!!
A THING THAT JUST TRIED TO KILL US!!!
PUT HIM DOWN!
JENNIFER, CALM DOWN...


NNYYAARRGGHHH!


OH JENNIFER, *PLEASE*, PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.
YOU'RE *NOT* YOUR COUSIN. YOU'RE IN CONTROL. THIS ISN'T YOU!! YOU CAN CONTROL IT!!
DON'T, PLEASE -- NOT TODAY --
NNYYAAA SSHUT UP!!
AAAIIEEE!!
CALM *DOWN*, LADY!
OR AVENGER OR NOT, I WILL PUT YOU DOWN!!
NNYYAARRGGH!!
FOOM
AARRGGH
FOOM
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND!!
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME -- SEND EVERYTHING YOU GOT. THIS SITUATION IS NOW LEVEL 9.
WE NEED A HULKBUSTER CREW. A.S.A.P.
OH, NO...


JENNIFER, I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.
JENNIFER, DON'T!!
HUUAAARRGGH!!


IS IT OVER?
NO.
THERE'S MORE?
MUCH MORE.
THEY ARE MANY AND THEY HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR.
WE SHOULD JUST KILL THEM AND BE DONE WITH IT.
AND WHAT WOULD *THAT* PROVE? IT HAS NO MEANING THAT WAY.
YOU'RE SO STUPID.
BUT THE ANSWER IS NO.
IT ISN'T OVER.



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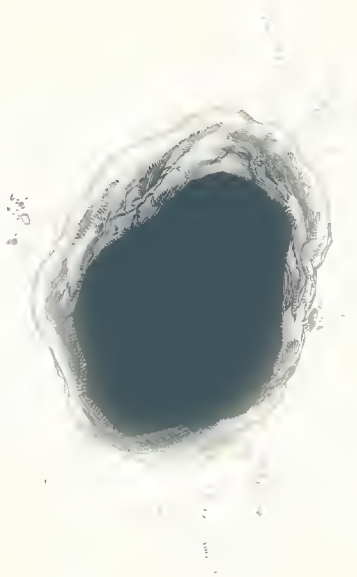
PREVIOUSLY IN NEW X-MEN...

Mere days ago, CYCLOPS and FANTOMEX accompanied WOLVERINE to an orbiting space station, the hidden site of the Weapon Plus Program. There, the long-lost Weapon X files containing all the secrets of Wolverine's identity were finally revealed to him. But the shocking truth was too much to handle...faced with the disturbing reality of exactly who—and what—he was, a distraught Wolverine detonated the entire Weapon Plus space station—and himself along with it.

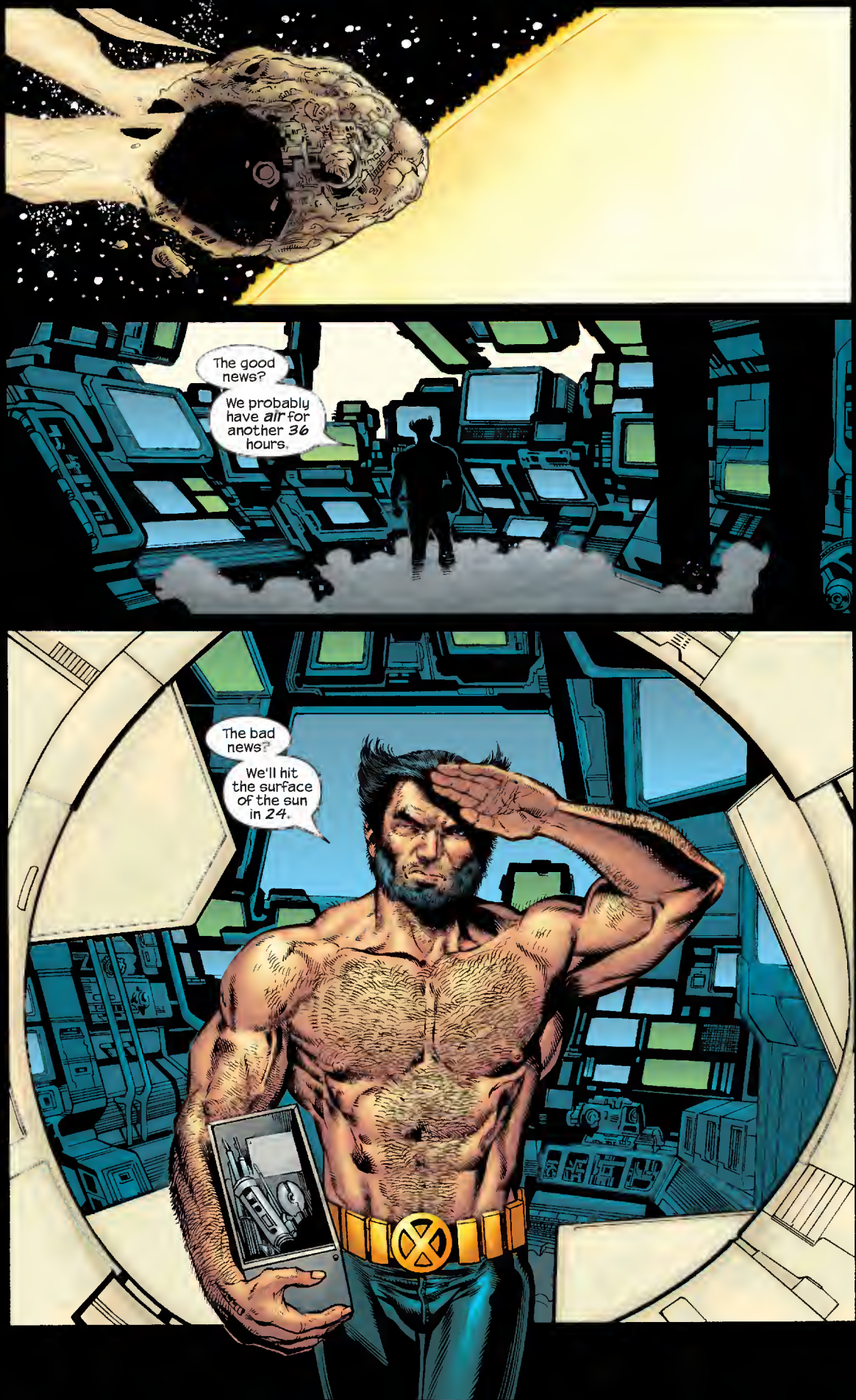
Later, JEAN GREY used the Phoenix Force to determine that Wolverine was still alive, and quickly located him on a somewhat familiar yet abandoned asteroid complex. Soon after, the two X-Men slowly realized that someone had set them up and lured them to ASTEROID M...the former headquarters of one of their greatest foes. But before they could escape, an intense explosion ripped through the station, shattering everything in its path.

With all of the X-Men effectively neutralized, things at the Xavier Institute deteriorated from bad to horrific. The mutant healer known only as XORN, who had been living alongside the X-Men for months, revealed himself to be none other than MAGNETO, the Master of Magnetism and the X-Men's greatest foe.

Now, with the X-Men scattered to the farthest reaches of Earth and beyond, with New York City destroyed beyond all hope of repair, with the X-Men's headquarters all but decimated, and with PROFESSOR XAVIER crippled once again, Magneto stands poised atop Manhattan's tallest skyscraper, christening the city as New Genosha, and ready to take over the entire planet...



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The good news?
We probably have *air* for another *36* hours.
The bad news?
We'll hit the surface of the sun in *24*.


Well, the station's too heavy to *move* and I tried to slow down the air molecules with my *mind* but everything's just too *hot*, Logan.
130 degrees and *rising*, 'less I can do something with the power, Jeannie.
What happened to *him*?
Who, *Weapon Fifteen*?
He dropped his guard in space and I *gutted* him.
He was all set to lead the charge against the whole *mutant race*, so don't give me a hard time.
I blew the Weapon Plus station to hell... we wrestled...
...and then we hit *this rock*.
'Asteroid M', he used to call these hideouts...it swung right into place and *waited* in orbit until you got here.
The whole damn thing's been a *trap*, Jeannie, all the way down the *line*.
An' I didn't see it...I didn't even *smell* him until now...
And you're sure it's *him*?

SURVIVOR TYPE



GRANT MORRISON
WRITER

PHIL JIMENEZ
PENCILER

ANDY LANNING
INKER

PLANET X

part 3 of 5



CHRIS CHUCKRY
COLORIST

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

ANNIE THORNTON
ASSISTANT

MIKE MARTS
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

BILL JEMAS
PRESIDENT



I *miss* Mister Xorn.

He used to tell us about China and Buddha and...*nice things*...

...when is he coming *back*?

He was a *fiction*, little Ernst. How often must I *explain*?

I made him up with the help of my *supporters* in China.

But Mister Xorn was *nice*...

There *is* no Xorn!

There is only I, *Magneto*.

I'm sorry, sir...I'm sorry.

Am...am I early for the *Brotherhood* meeting?


Chaos!
It's chaos in the streets, Magneto!
Eeuww
People need to know what's happening, soon!
Calm yourself, Toad!
I don't want bad news! Bring me good news!
Then feed me a few soundbites everyone can understand.
Ssseee, they really have no idea what you're talking about when you do all your big, Shakespearean stuff.
I'm only telling you what it's like out there...
...they're baying at the moon for some action, Magneto! A public hanging! Anything!
Since when did a good education and an extensive vocabulary become handicaps?
"Shakespearean stuff."
Stay there and wait with the others where you belong, Toad.
I'd like to be alone for a moment.
Charles...


I've fed them so many *lies*, old friend... engineered a species war in *your name*.
I don't expect I'll have much time before *reprisals* commence. You understand...I have to do something *unforgettable*.
Remember that reversal of the Earth's *magnetic poles* I talked about before but never went through with?
North will become *South*.
The event will *obliterate* the weak human, *rewire* mutant brains and alter planetary consciousness *forever*.
One of my *old* ideas, admittedly, but still a *good one*.


Each day, more and more mutants flock to my cause, empowered by supplies of the drug *Kick*.
Your timid, colorless leadership has been *forgotten*.
You failed to *inspire*, Charles.
While I...I became a *legend* in death and a *savior* upon my return.
I *always* come back, haven't you noticed? Perhaps that's *my* secondary mutation.
To *always come back*.
Don't *look* at me like that-- you have no right to *judge* me.
We're establishing a *nation*, a *species*. I'll rest when my work is *done* and the devouring sickness of man and his ugly machines has been *erased* from our planet.
The drug is only for as long as I *need* it to boost my strength...
You!
You offer them a long and difficult process of *"peaceful integration"* with a species which is neither peaceful nor inclined to integrate with *any* other living thing.
FFF


While I, Charles, I offer a new map of tomorrow.
And the triumph of Homo Superior.
This city is only the beginning.
I offer them Utopia! Here and now!
The shining morning of the mutants!

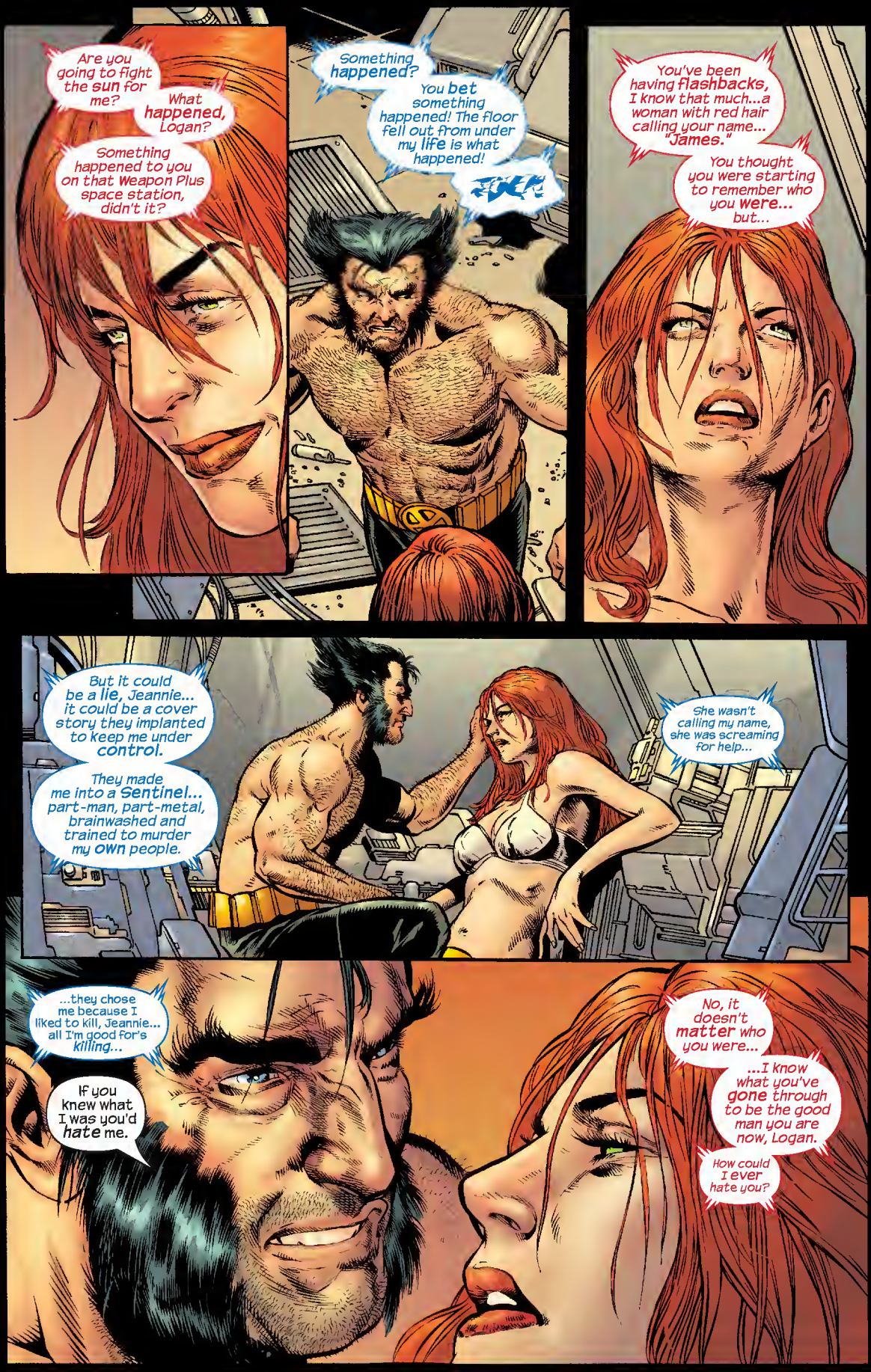

ASTEROID M...
You got this Phoenix Force inside you--right, Jeannie?
I know everybody's scared it's gonna eat you up and kill us all, but I have a question...
RRRRAAAA
Can it fly in space?
'Cause if it can't, we're on a one-way trip.
Nothing works in here.
Don't talk, Logan...telepathy conserves oxygen.
Let me tell you what I know about the Phoenix.

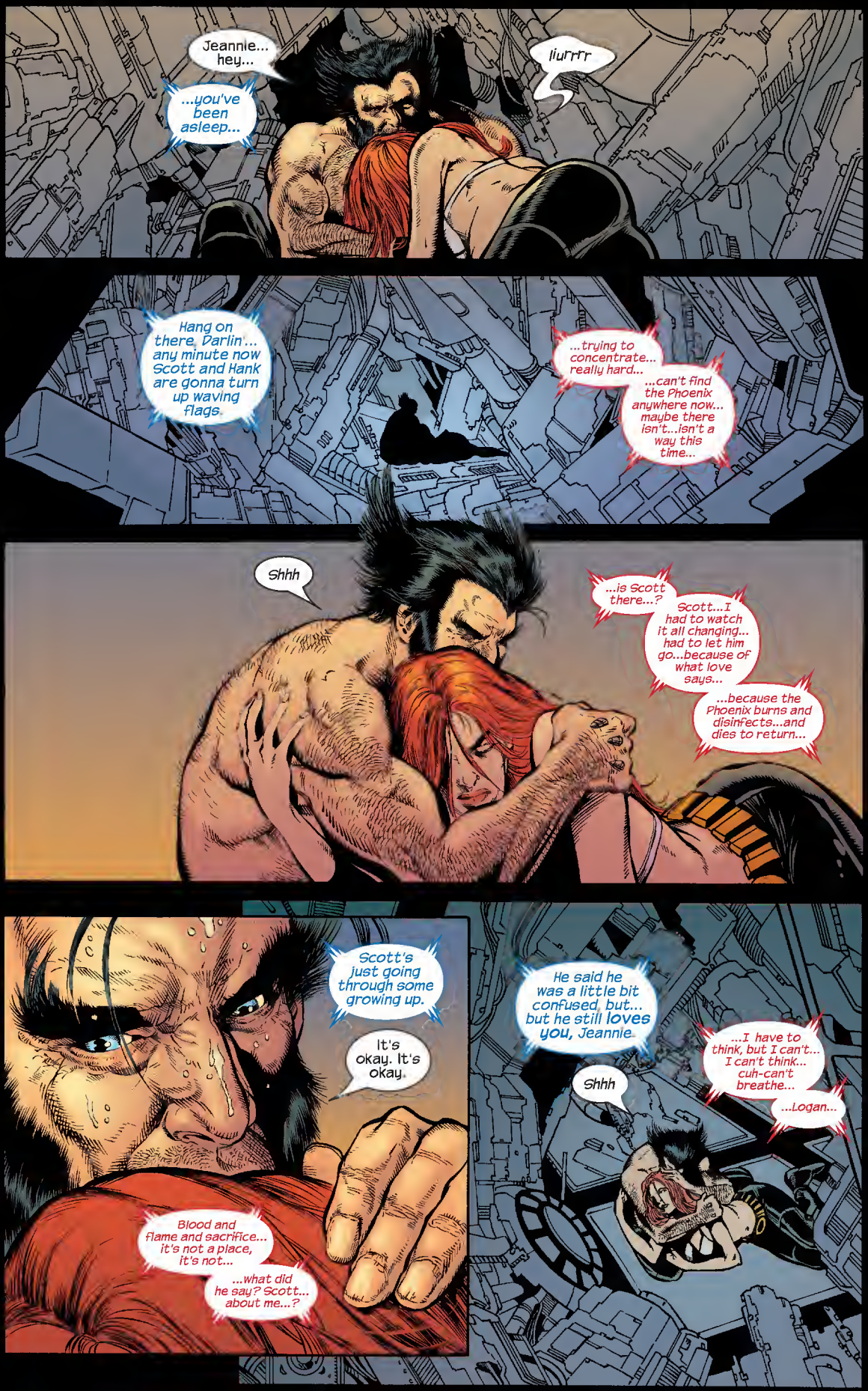

When I was thirteen, I realized I could control matter with my mind...just crude stuff at first...lifting things and throwing them across the room.
Then it progressed, with the Professor's help, until I was manipulating dozens of objects at once.
Now I'm learning to move molecules around and expand my senses beyond all boundaries.
So potentially you could do anything?
You could be like a god, Jeannie.
You could make your own universe and set it right...
The Phoenix isn't like that, Logan...it's more like...it burns away what doesn't work.
It eats planets and stars. It talks to me. And if I get too close it... it replaces me.
I'm still waiting for the note of hope here.
If this Phoenix is here to judge the Earth, then why the hell would it allow you to get killed before it's done?
Maybe it's judging me, too.
All I know is my body still needs oxygen and water to function... and there's nothing but vacuum out there...
...I can't fly through space. Not yet, not the way you mean.


There's gotta be a way outta this!
There's always a way out!
RRRAAAUUUURRRRR
I'll find a way.
Esme, the little blonde girl from Emma's group, was caught dealing Kick...she tried to kill Emma and implicate young Angel...
...so where does Magneto fit into all of this?

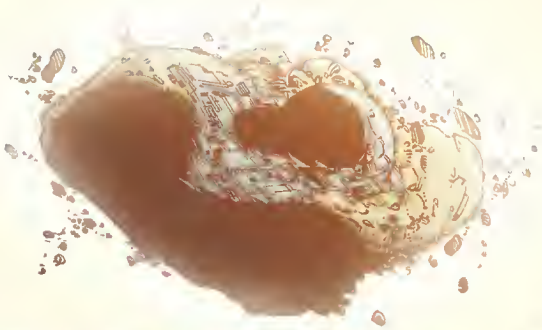

NEW GENOSHA
So I paralyzed their precious TV screens and they offered to negotiate. Can you imagine the idea?!
Homo Inferior seems to have forgotten the unresolved matter of 16 million murdered mutants in Genosha.
Well, I think we should have the most appalling series of human sacrifices as soon as possible.
It has to look like we're absolutely serious about changing the world, doesn't it?
I am serious and I will set the agenda for our campaign, child! Stop interrupting me!
Now...several of Charles' X-Men remain unaccounted for.
It will be your task to locate any troublesome survivors using the Cerebra machine, Esme.
Magneto sees through your bra-stuffing tricks, child! Hyukk!
Shut up, you freak!
Yes, Basilisk, shut up.
Beak, it's time we put some steel in you, boy.
You'll be in charge of tomorrow's mass extermination of all remaining Homo Inferior in New Genosha.
Extermination?


So...so say that again?
Sorry, my mind's drifting all over...I can't stop thinking about ice cream...
Or a long cold beer straight from the icebox...
...I'm saying somebody's been undermining the school and dividing up the X-Men, and now here we are in a deathtrap that looks exactly like Magneto's old headquarters.
Hell, maybe Magneto has nothing to do with it after all. Maybe it's Xorn!
Logan...I... I'm sorry. I didn't hear any of that...I've stopped sweating...that's a bad sign, isn't it?
I...I don't think I'm going to get through this after all...
...I don't feel good at all...
It can't happen like this, Logan.
Not to us.
We can't just die, can we?
One time I survived for six months under a glacier by eating strips off my own arm... healing factor grew the flesh right back...
...there's always a way, Jeannie.


Are you going to fight the sun for me?
What happened, Logan?
Something happened to you on that Weapon Plus space station, didn't it?
Something happened?
You bet something happened! The floor fell out from under my life is what happened!
You've been having flashbacks, I know that much...a woman with red hair calling your name... "James."
You thought you were starting to remember who you were... but...
But it could be a lie, Jeannie... it could be a cover story they implanted to keep me under control.
They made me into a Sentinel... part-man, part-metal, brainwashed and trained to murder my own people.
She wasn't calling my name, she was screaming for help...
...they chose me because I liked to kill, Jeannie... all I'm good for's killing...
If you knew what I was you'd hate me.
No, it doesn't matter who you were...
...I know what you've gone through to be the good man you are now, Logan.
How could I ever hate you?

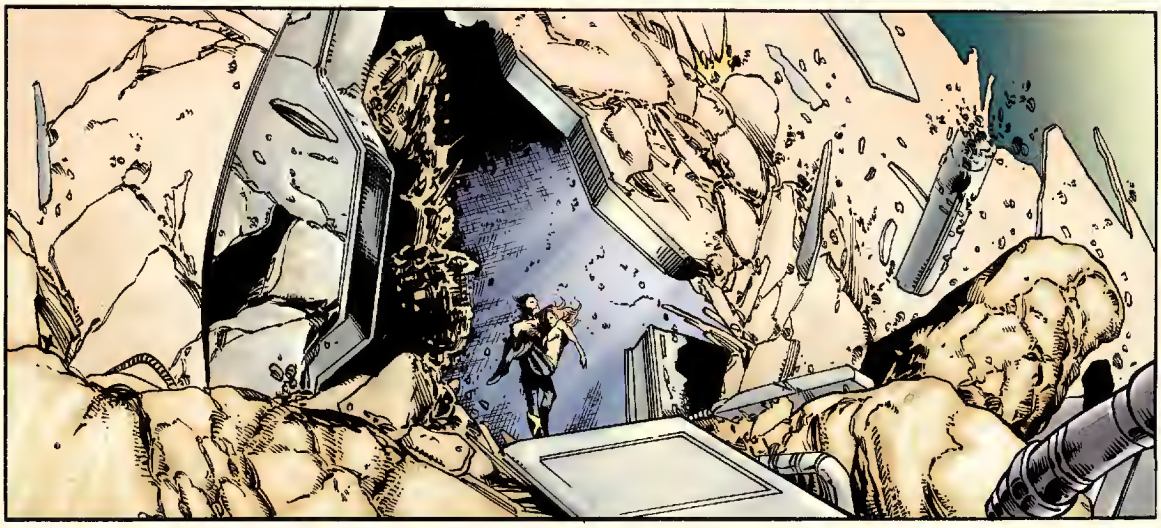

Jeannie... hey...
...you've been asleep...
liurrrr
Hang on there, Darlin'... any minute now Scott and Hank are gonna turn up waving flags.
...trying to concentrate... really hard...
...can't find the Phoenix anywhere now... maybe there isn't...isn't a way this time...
Shhh
...is Scott there...?
Scott... I had to watch it all changing... had to let him go...because of what love says...
...because the Phoenix burns and disinfects...and dies to return...
Scott's just going through some growing up.
It's okay. It's okay.
Blood and flame and sacrifice... it's not a place, it's not...
...what did he say? Scott... about me...?
He said he was a little bit confused, but... but he still loves you, Jeannie.
Shhh
...I have to think, but I can't... I can't think... cuh-can't breathe...
...Logan...


...this is terrible, Logan... I feel so suh- scared and weird...
...everything's wruh-wrong inside me...horrible voices in the heat...
...Logan... I'm dying...
...I'm dying... unnhh...
...don't... don't leave me...
Never. I'm right beside ya.
I'd die to save yer life, Darlin'.
I'd take all yer pain on myself.
But I can't.
I can only take it away.
KCHKK!
Ah, God.
Ah, God.




You and me, Jeannie.


You and me in a blaze of glory.









TO BE CONTINUED

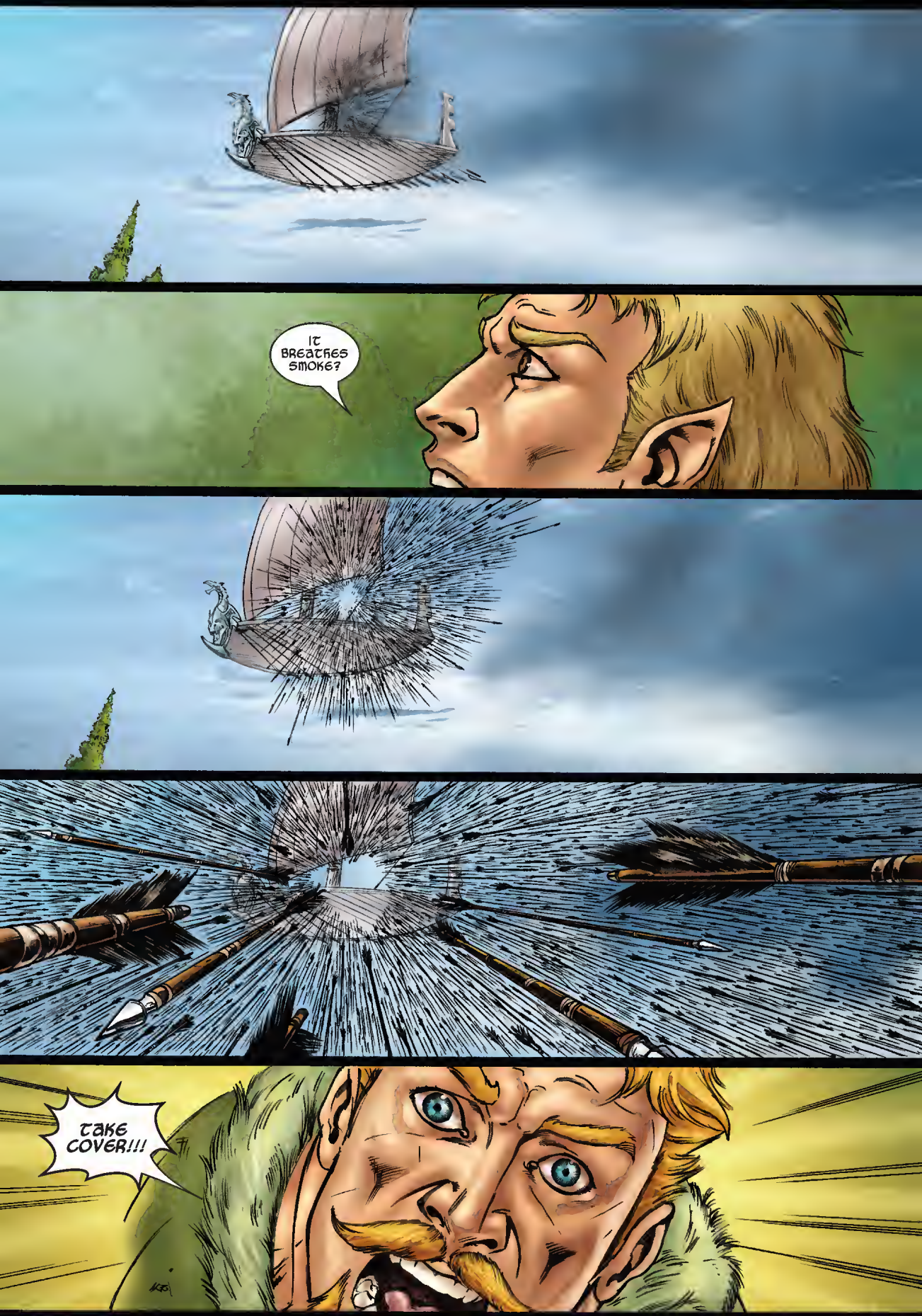

THE MIGHTY
THOR
DISASSEMBLED
RAGNAROK
3 OF 6
MARVEL
PSR 82 584
OEMING
DiVITO
VILLARI

Ragnarok
Part The Third




WE NEED YOUR HELP, OLD FRIENDS. LOKI HAS GONE MAD! YMIR-HALL HAS FALLEN! THE GODS ARE DYING! LORD THOR IS DEAD!
THOOM!
THAT BLADE--THROWN SWIFTER THAN MY ARROW--IT COULD ONLY BE--


SURTUR'S FLAME! WHAT HAS HAPPENED? SIF, IS SHE...
SHE LIVES... BARELY.
NO...NO, I CAN FIGHT, STAND BACK, I CAN...
MY LADY, PLEASE, WE CAN HELP YO--
OH, NO.
WHAT IS THAT?
NAGLFAR, THE SHIP MADE OF THE NAILS OF THE DEAD-- OUR DOOM!

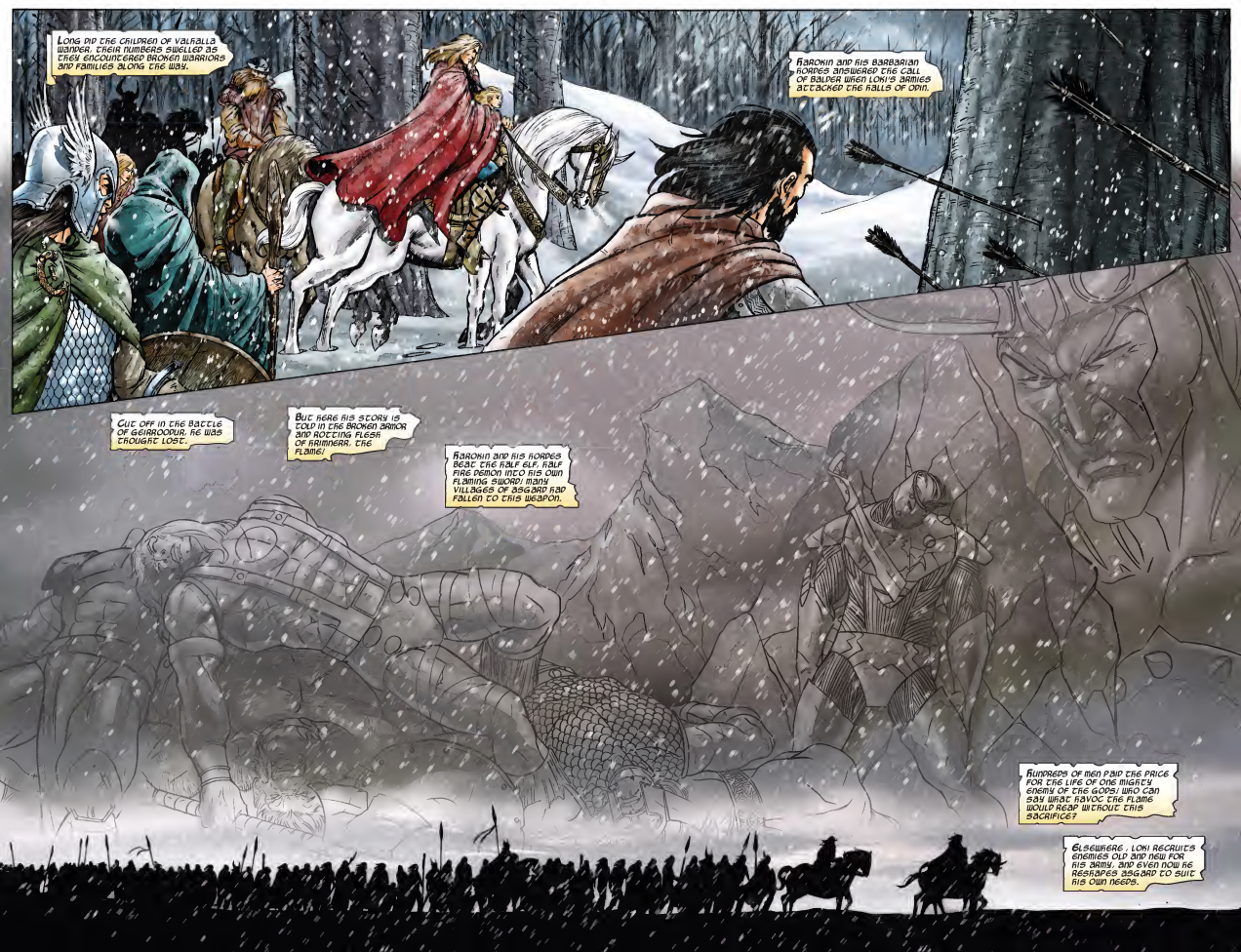

IT BREATHES SMOKE?
TAKE COVER!!!


ALFHEIM. HOME OF THE LIGHT ELVES.
PRESENT DAY.
WHO COMES TO THIS PLACE? ARE YOU HERE TO JOIN ME IN MY SLOW DEATH?


WHO RIDES IN THE BROKEN IMAGE OF MY MOTHER?
IT IS I, THOR, KING OF ALL THAT STANDS IN ASGARD!
KRAK!
THOR IS DEAD! I'LL CUT OUT YOUR LYING TONGUE!
VOL-VOLSTAGG?!
AYE, 'TIS I. BUT YOU...WHAT GHOST FOOLS MY EYES? IF ONLY IT WERE TRUE-- THOR...
I AM NO GHOST. I SURVIVED YMIR-KRUL AND THE DOOM OF THE DWARVES. WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...


IT IS YOU! THOR!
FORGIVE ME...I...I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE... WASTING AWAY...I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE IN MONTHS...I THOUGHT I WAS THE LAST. THAT I WOULD DIE ALONE...
WE ESCAPED YMIR-KRUL...SIF AS WELL. YET SHE LOST AN ARM...
SIF LIVES?!
...CAME HERE FOR HELP. THE SHIP FROM YMIR-KRUL CAME...
THEY LEVELED ALFHEIM... BATHED IT IN ARROWS AND FIRE...SAID VALHALLA WAS NEXT.
IT WAS... AND BALDER FELL WITH IT. BUT HYRM AND ULIK WALK THE WORLDS NO MORE.
I BURIED AS MANY AS I COULD...BURNED THE REST...SO MANY!
FANDRAL, FAIR AND HANDSOME, HIS FACE TORN FROM HIS BODY.
HOGUN'S HEART TORN OUT BY ARROWS.
AND LADY SIF...
YES?
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF HER TO HONOR. I ALONE SURVIVED, TOO FAT TO KILL.
SO NOW I WAIT FOR A DISHONORABLE DEATH. FORGIVE ME, OLD FRIEND.
NO. NO, VOLSTAGG, I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU!

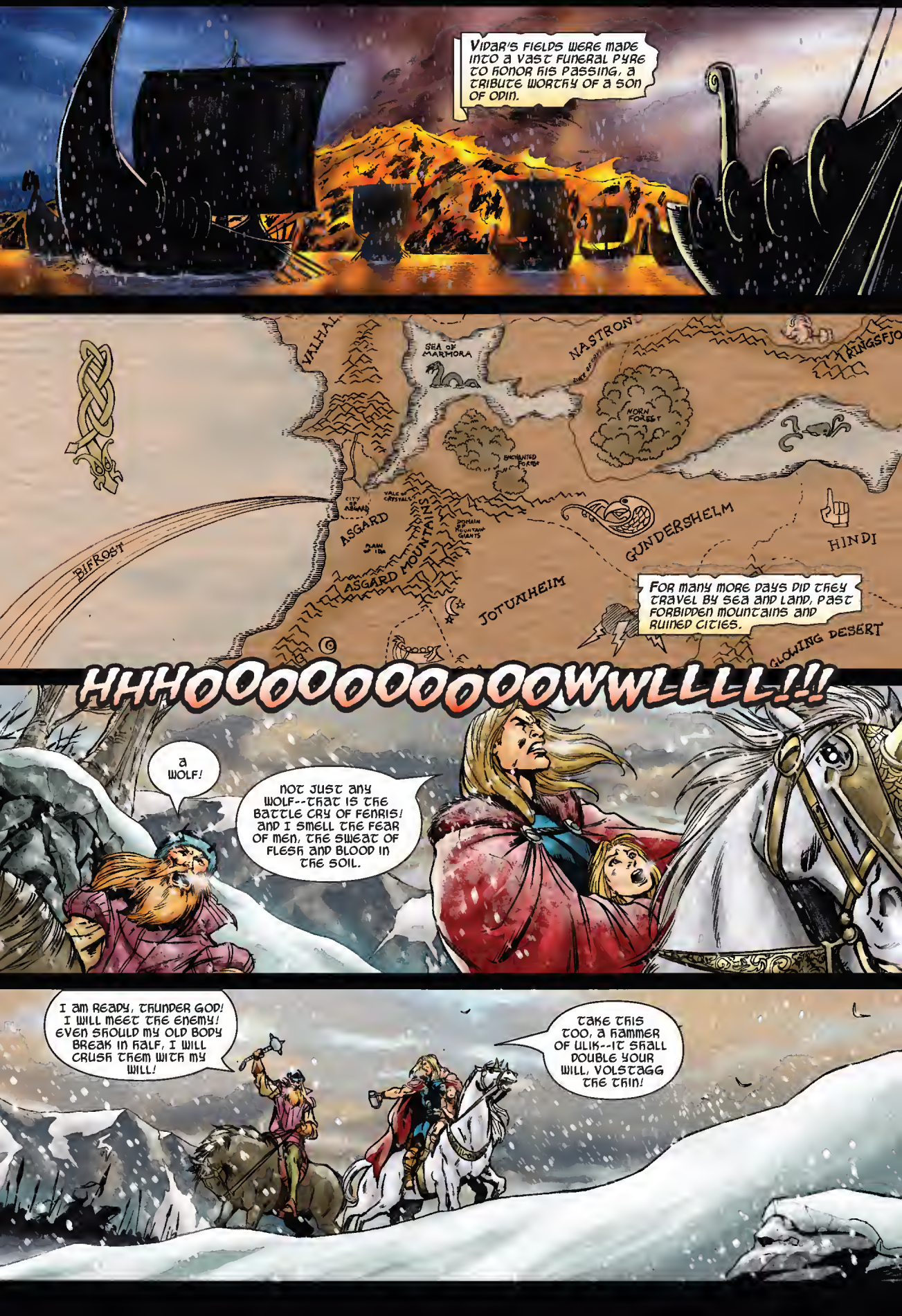

NOT UNTIL YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR HONOR, FOR OUR PEOPLE! PICK YOURSELF UP, MAN. DON'T SAY YOU ARE SORRY. SHOW ME!
YES...YES! GIVE ME A SWORD AN AXE OR A SPOON AND I WILL FIGHT FOR THE HONOR OF OUR FALLEN BROTHERS--
FOR THE DWARVES AND ELVES! FOR SIF! FOR THE WARRIORS THREE!
I HAVE NEITHER SWORD NOR SPOON FOR YOU, VOLSTAGG THE THIN, BUT I HAVE THIS!
WHAT IS THIS? A HAMMER?
AYE.
WE HAVE GATHERED THE CITIZENS OF ASGARD AND MAKE OUR EXODUS TO VANAHEIM! WE WILL REBUILD--OR MAKE OUR FINAL STAND.
WE FOUGHT MANY BATTLES BETWEEN THERE AND HERE--THE LAST WAS WITH GEIRROODUR, KING OF THE TROLLS, WHO ALLIED HIMSELF WITH MY BROTHER LOKI.
I MADE HIM PAY WITH MY BARE HANDS. I TORE THIS HAMMER FROM HIS CURSED FIST!
TAKE IT AND FIGHT BESIDE ME AS WE CRUSH THE ENEMIES OF ASGARD!


Long do the children of Valhalla wander, their numbers swelled as they encountered broken warriors and families along the way.
Karokin and his barbarian hordes answered the call of Baldur when Loki's armies attacked the halls of Odin.
Cut off in the battle of Geirrodur, he was thought lost.
But here his story is told in the broken armor and rotting flesh of Grimnar, the Flame!
Karokin and his hordes beat the half elf, half fire demon into his own flaming sword; many villages of Asgard had fallen to this weapon.
Hundreds of men paid the price for the life of one mighty enemy of the gods! Who can say what havoc the flame would reap without this sacrifice?
Elsewhere, Loki recruits enemies old and new for his army, and even now he prepares Asgard to suit his own needs.


As Loki's powers grow, Thor and the others find their powers wane, and so the gods must travel the old ways.
This boy, he rides with you? He is...
Orphaned, yes. I have taken him in as my own.
A sight I would never have believed, the mighty Thor raising a babe.
A skinny Volstagg?! That is a sight I would never have believed!
Hahahahah-- Ow, ow...
It aches to laugh. If only Fandral and Hogun...it pains me even more to think of them... to laugh without them beside me. It is not fair.
That it is not, my friend. My heart is as broken as my hammer. Once it was within my power to turn back time...


IF ONLY IT WERE SO NOW, THAT I COULD BRING BACK OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES...
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I SEE THEM DIE-- MOTHER, FATHER...MY BROTHERS...HOW MUCH I MISS THEM.
EVEN LOKI?
SAY NOT HIS NAME!
NO, NO, THAT'S OKAY, BOY. YES, HE TOO I WISH I HAD BACK.
WHAT?
ONCE WE WERE CHILDREN. BALDER, LOKI, VIDAR AND I. SIF WOULD PLAY WITH US. LOKI IS MY BROTHER AND...
...I ONCE LOVED EVEN HIS MISCHIEVOUS NATURE. IT SEEMS NOW HE IS DOOMED TO IT.
A BEE WILL ALWAYS STING WHEN IT FEELS WINTER'S APPROACH.
I SUPPOSE.


KURSE, AT ONE TIME AN ENEMY OF THE ASGARDIANS, HAD BECOME A BROTHER IN ARMS, SWORN BY HIS WORD AS THE PROTECTOR OF ASGARD'S CHILDREN.
HIS LOYALTY HAS BEEN BAPTIZED IN BLOOD MANY TIMES OVER.
WRITTEN ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD, AMONG BROKEN SWORDS AND SHIELDS, ARE SIGNS OF A GIANT HAMMER SHAPED LIKE A TOOTH.
KURSE DIED PROTECTING THE NEWLY ORPHANED CHILDREN HIDDEN IN THIS CAVE. HIS WORD WAS HIS BOND AND HE DIED FOR IT.
THOR CALLS DOWN THE RAIN--TO BLESS THE LAND--AND COOL THE ANGER OF BATTLE.
AND STILL THERE WERE MORE FALLEN TO BE FOUND...
VIDAR, THOR'S BROTHER WHO TRADED HIS SWORD FOR PLOUGHSHARES, FELL IN GLORY, FOUND IN A FIELD OF GOLDEN SPEARS.
HE FOUGHT WITH A FIERCENESS THAT DID HIS BROTHER PROUD. LONG HAD IT BEEN SINCE THOR HAD LAST LAID EYES UPON HIM.
FIELDS THAT SHOULD BE MADE GOLDEN WITH GRAIN ARE INSTEAD MADE GOLDEN WITH SPEARS OF THE TROLLIC ELITE, WIPED OUT BY THE WARRIOR FARMER.
THOR SHED NO TEARS AS HE PROUDLY HONORED HIS BROTHER AS A FALLEN WARRIOR.


VIDAR'S FIELDS WERE MADE INTO A VAST FUNERAL PYRE TO HONOR HIS PASSING, A TRIBUTE WORTHY OF A SON OF ODIN.
VALHAL
SEA OF MARMORA
NASTRON
KINGSFJO
HORN FOREST
ENCHANTED FOREST
CITY OF ASGARD
VALE OF CRYSTALS
ASGARD
DOMAIN OF MOUNTAIN GIANTS
PLAIN OF IDA
ASGARD MOUNTAINS
BIFROST
GUNDERSHELM
HINDI
JOTUNHEIM
FOR MANY MORE DAYS DID THEY TRAVEL BY SEA AND LAND, PAST FORBIDDEN MOUNTAINS AND RUINED CITIES.
GLOWING DESERT
HHHOOOOOOOOOWWLLLL!!!
A WOLF!
NOT JUST ANY WOLF--THAT IS THE BATTLE CRY OF FENRIS! AND I SMELL THE FEAR OF MEN, THE SWEAT OF FLESH AND BLOOD IN THE SOIL.
I AM READY, THUNDER GOD! I WILL MEET THE ENEMY! EVEN SHOULD MY OLD BODY BREAK IN HALF, I WILL CRUSH THEM WITH MY WILL!
TAKE THIS TOO, A HAMMER OF ULIK--IT SHALL DOUBLE YOUR WILL, VOLSTAGG THE THIN!


TAKE THE BOY, PROTECT THE OTHERS, LEAD THEM BACK!
NOW LET US CLASH AGAIN, PUNY LITTLE GOD!!
FENRIS! HE'S GROWN IN STRENGTH AND SIZE!
VANAHEIM IS UNDER ATTACK AND IS FALLING!


UUUF!!
FOR VANAHEIM! FOR VIDAR AND THE FALLEN!
FOR ASGARRRD!
BEHOLD, VANAHEIM! STEADY YOURSELVES! THOR COMES TO US IN OUR HOUR OF NEED! WE SHALL NOT FALL THIS DAY!
VALKYRIE, DEFENDER OF EARTH, RETURNS TO HER HOME TO FIGHT BESIDE HER PEOPLE!
KAAAK!


NOO!!
BRUNHILDE, DON'T LEAVE NOW. THIS IS THE HOUR OF OUR VICTORY!
ARAGORN, MY LOVING STEED...
BREATHE DEEP THE POWER OF THE MIGHTY THOR!
THOOM-THOOM-THOOM-THOOM-THO
SIF?
SIF!!
AAGGHH!!


THE HORDES OF LOKI HAVE GROWN BEYOND TROLL AND GIANT, AS HE HAS FLOODED ASGARD WITH SWARMS OF FIENDS FROM NEAR AND FAR! BEHOLD! DUROK THE DEMOLISHER!
SIF, BEHIND YOU!
DUROK, YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE VENGEANCE OF BRUNHILDE, OUR GREATEST VALKYRIE WARRIOR! FEEL THE BITE OF HER MAGIC BLADE, DRAGONFANG!
UFFF!
THHOOOOM!!


THOR, WORD OF YOUR RETURN IS ALL THAT HAS KEPT US GOING! TO SEE YOU AGAIN--I NEVER THOUGHT--
SIF! YOU LIVE!
YOU DIDN'T THINK THIS SCRATCH WOULD STOP ME?
HOW CAN I BE SO FULL OF JOY AT THIS MOMENT? IT IS A TIME FOR VENGEANCE! FOR BATTLE!
IT IS NOT OVER FAIR LADY--
TAKE COVER!
THOOM!

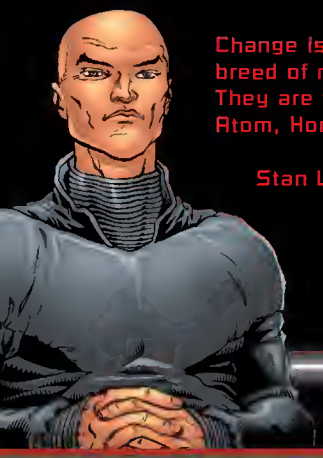

EVEN WITH MJOLNIR BESIDE ME, I COULD BARELY STAND AGAINST YOU BEFORE... ERRRRRRR!
I'VE LEANED ON THE POWER OF MJOLNIR TOO OFTEN!
A HAMMER IS BUT A TOOL! EVEN MJOLNIR!
KRAKAKA-DOOM!
BUT I AM A GOD! GOD OF THUNDER AND LORD OF ASGARD!
KRRATHOOOOOM!!
HAVING SEEN FRIEND AND FAMILY DIE, AND KNOWING THESE ARE THE END DAYS, THOR REACHES DEEP INTO HIMSELF FOR A STRENGTH NEVER FULLY REALIZED BEFORE!


SO, MUTE BEAST, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY BEST NOW?
FENRIS...
RRRRRR...
ONE OF US SHALL MEET HIS DOOM THIS DAY...
RRRRRRRRR... I'VE ESCAPED THESE CHAINS BEFORE, UNCLE...
RRRRAAAAAAA!!!
KRAKA-THOOM!!
DON'T CALL ME... UNCLE.
STAND BACK, THIS IS MY FIGHT--
NO! YOU ARE WEAKENED. YOU CAN BARELY STAND!
NEVER-THELESS, I SHALL!


THOR! MY OATH BROTHER, I HAVE RETURNED IN YOUR TIME OF NEED!



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Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom, Homo superior.

Stan Lee presents...

NEW X-MEN



PHOENIX IN DARKNESS

PLANET X 4 of 5



MAGNETO
Erik Magnus Lensherr
(formerly XORN)
Magnetic Control



ESME
Stepford Cuckoo
Telepath



BEAK
Barnell Bohusk
Wings/Flight



PROFESSOR X
Charles Xavier
X-Men Founder
Telepath

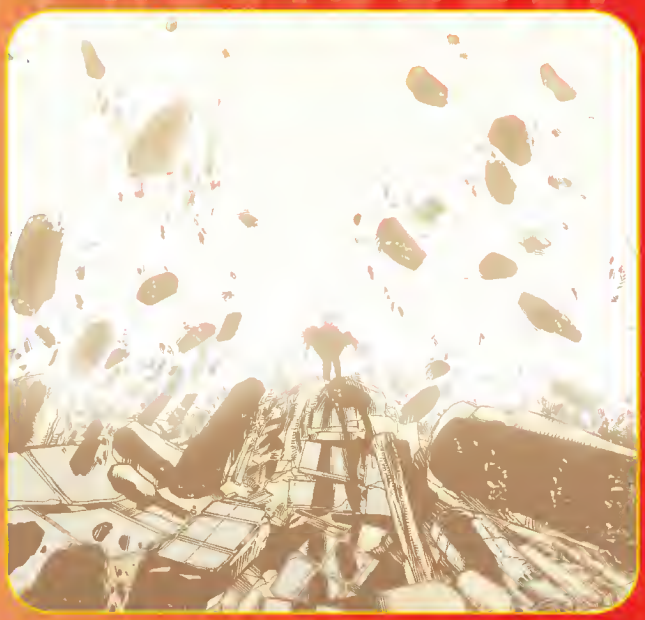


CYCLOPS
Scott Summers
Optic Blasts



+ANTOMEX
Superhuman Abilities/
Super-Sentinel

PREVIOUSLY



Writer
Grant Morrison

Penciler
Phil Jimenez

Inker
Andy Lanning

Colorist
Chris Chuckry

Letterer
Virtual Calligraphy's
Rus Wooton

Cover
Chistopher Shy

Assistant Editor
Stephanie Moore

Editor
Mike Marts

Editor In Chief
Joe Quesada

Publisher
Dan Buckley

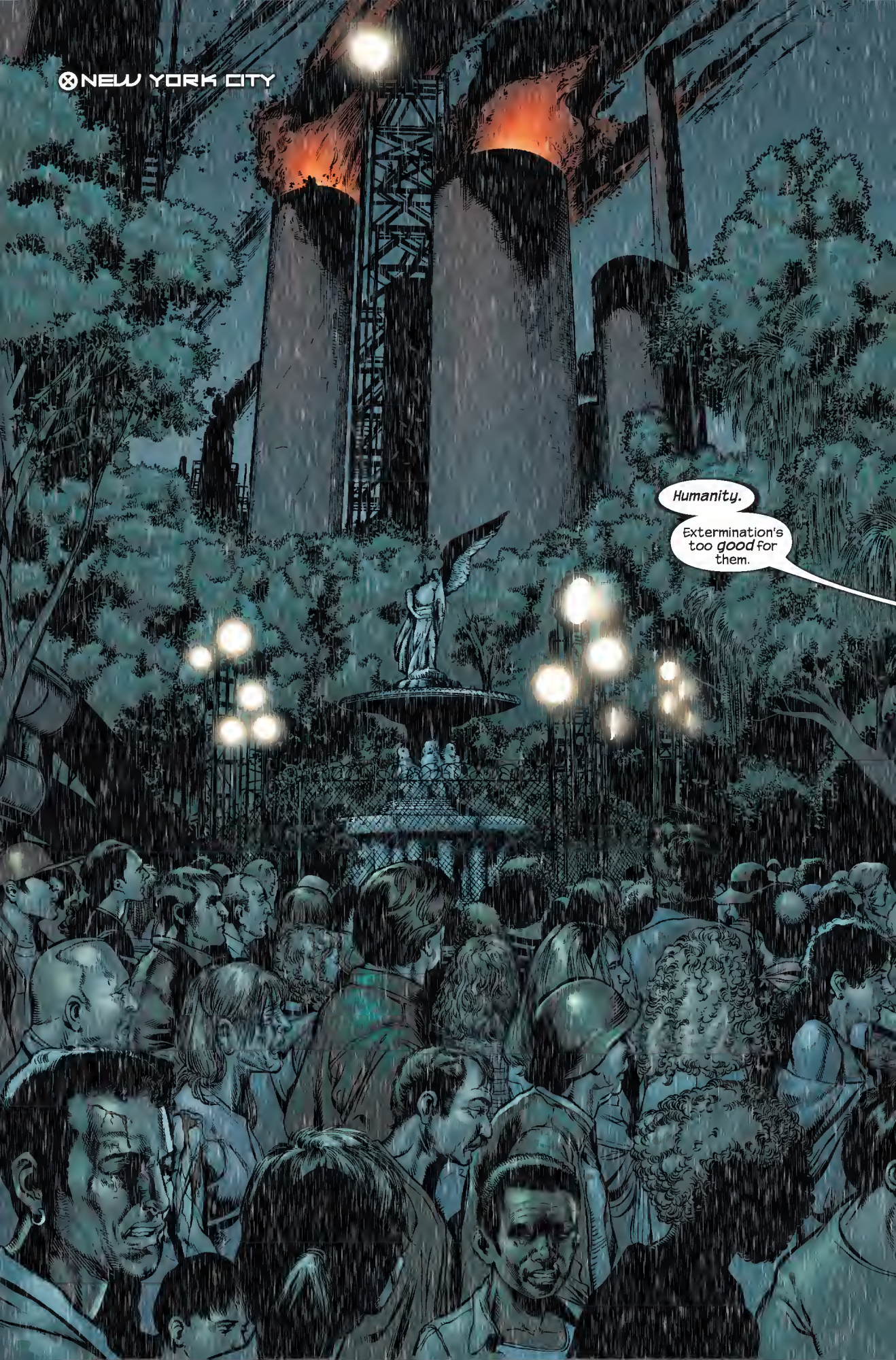
Mere days ago, CYCLOPS and FANTOMEX accompanied WOLVERINE to an orbiting space station, the hidden site of the Weapon Plus Program. There, the long-lost Weapon X files containing all the secrets of Wolverine's identity were finally revealed to him. But the shocking truth was too much to handle...faced with the disturbing reality of exactly who—and what—he was, a distraught Wolverine detonated the entire Weapon Plus space station—and himself along with it.

Later, JEAN GREY used the Phoenix Force to determine that Wolverine was still alive, and quickly located him on a familiar yet abandoned asteroid complex. Soon after, the two X-Men slowly realized that someone had set them up and lured them to ASTEROID M...the former headquarters of one of their greatest foes. But before they could escape, an intense explosion ripped through the station, shattering everything in its path. With the asteroid on a direct course for the sun and no way of reversing it, Wolverine plunged his claws into Jean's chest and carried her outside the asteroid complex to meet the sun head-on...

With all of the X-Men effectively neutralized, things at the Xavier Institute deteriorated from bad to horrific. The mutant healer known only as XORN, who had been living alongside the X-Men for months, revealed himself to be none other than MAGNETO, the Master of Magnetism and the X-Men's greatest foe!

Now, with the X-Men scattered to the farthest reaches of Earth and beyond, with New York City destroyed beyond all hope of repair, with the X-Men's headquarters all but decimated, and with PROFESSOR XAVIER crippled once again, Magneto stands poised atop Manhattan's tallest skyscraper, christening the city as New Genosha. His plan: to reverse the magnetic poles of the Earth, destroying every human on the planet and ushering in an age of mutants!

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NEW YORK CITY
Humanity.
Extermination's too good for them.

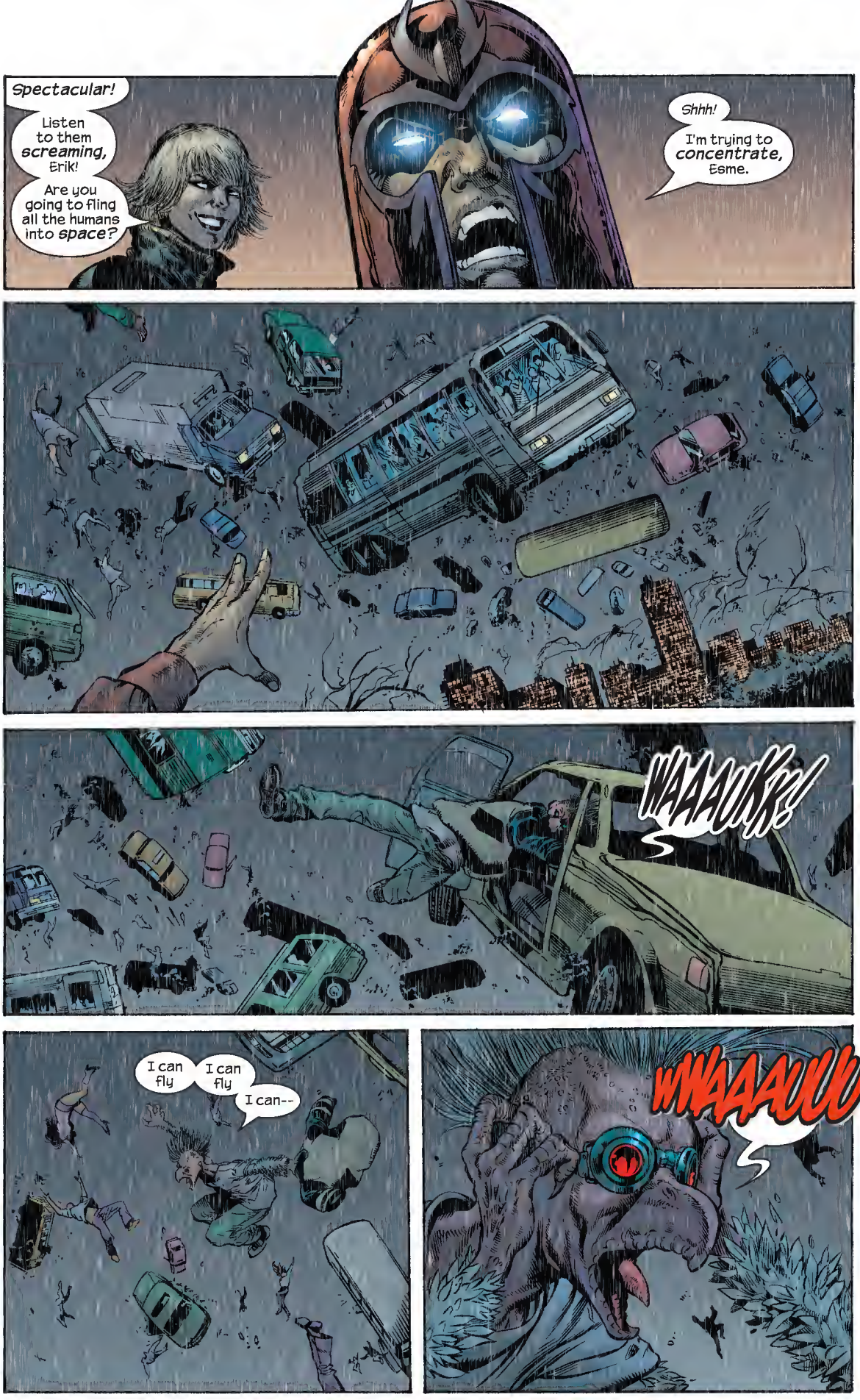

Look at the state of these last dregs, stumbling like *cattle* towards the abattoir.
Are you ready to activate the crematoria, Beak?
But...but this started as politics and freedom...
...when did we all turn into such total *Nazis?*
Nazis?
Do I *look* like a failed artist with a neurotic grudge against his father and the world?
I am a *force of nature,* boy. I am *Magneto.*
A new world demands new resolve.
We are laying the foundation stones of paradise--this is no time to be *squeamish.*
There is nothing *new* about people marching into the ovens.
Yeah, I don't know if I really want my kids growing up to be Imperial *Stormtroopers.*
These children of yours will grow *strong* and *proud* in a world without persecution or fear, Angel Salvadore.
One day they will build *statues* in my honor.
Tell him, Toad.
What *he* said.
He's spent a *lot* of time thinking about this, so just shut your *yaps,* eh?


It's a scientific fact--humans are a lower form of life.
They practically admitted it themselves when they called us Homo Superior.
Magneto wrote a brilliant article about how they can't even feel pain like we do.
SLLTHH
You should have been there for the experiments, Beak...
Wwaaukk? Everyone can feel pain!
Even a dog or a carrot can feel pain!
What?
A carrot can feel pain?
Yeah! Why not...?
Okay, maybe a carrot's the wrong fruit to pick, but there's no way I--
Vegetable!
Carrots are not fruit and this is not Xavier's School!
This is Magneto's empire.
Leave him be!


You leave him alone!
Look at you! You're eight feet tall and he's nothing but chicken bones and hair!
He's not a killer!
Mom!
Dad!
:TT:
Your children are soldiers! All of you are my soldiers!
And you will learn discipline. Put Beak with the humans.
With or against me-- make your choice, children.
You! You're just like my Daddy!
I'll do what it takes to save mutantkind.
This guy's no hero, he's a jerk!
Magneto is nothing but a jerk!
Designed by Mother Nature to prey on the human organism.
Blame her.
:hyuk:
Somebody ruined it...
...who just passed gas at the most dramatic moment?


I Said DISCIPLINE.
!
E-rik!
I--I didn't mean to.
I...I... I only meant to teach Basilisk a lesson...
The Brotherhood will be recruiting a new inner circle, Toad.
:hyuk:
You heard him!
Find a pyrokinetic and dispose of that body or else we'll need a truck to get rid of him!


You're losing it big time!
The X-Men will beat you senseless, you crazy psycho killer!
Daaad
I had such hopes for you, Beak.
I thought you could transcend your limitations.
You will be a soldier or you will be dead.
Jerk!
UNNFF!
I'm a father...!
People like you shouldn't be allowed to breed!
Call this natural selection.
Mom!
This ain't right!
What are they doing to him?
Dad!
Hup!


Spectacular!
Listen to them screaming, Erik!
Are you going to fling all the humans into space?
Shhh!
I'm trying to concentrate, Esme.
WAAAUKK!
I can fly
I can fly
I can--
WWAAAUUU


HUFF!
NGHH!
A-HUFF!
Ha!
Ha ha!
Nnn
I'm flying!
I'm really--
Oh no--
BAM
BAM


PHOENIX IN DARKNESS
PLANET X
PART 4 OF 5
GRANT MORRISON WRITER PHIL JIMENEZ PENCILER ANDY LANNING INKER
CHRIS CHUCKRY
COLORIST
VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
RUS WOOTON
LETTERER
CHRISTOPHER SHY
COVER
STEPHANIE MOORE
ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE MARTS
EDITOR
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER


MUTANT TOWN, NYC
Shoes are *mine.*
MAGNETO WAS RIGHT
Uhhh
...Xavier... school...
:TT:
Magneto *rules.*
KFF!


KK...rrr...
...soldier...
...nngg...
...soldier...
...I'll show you...
You wanted a soldier, Magneto?
Well, he is not...not working for you...
Huh?
Hello, X-Man.
My name is E.V.A.
You can fall over now.


Concussion?
Agreed.
Fractures?
No sign.
You have a skull of concrete, Barnell Bohusk.
Too bad the rest of me is of cheap broken glass...
...where is this?
Your sister said you were all dead or gone to Magneto's army at the Institute.
Well, Esme's not part of us anymore.
We're the Three-In-One now--aren't we, Phoebe?
Esme is the worst liar.
There are actually still quite a few of us...
...and we're all very cross.
Why is everybody looking at me like that?
Mister Xorn tricked us all... we totally trusted him...
Yes, maybe...but Dust here told us what you all did to the Professor.
Lucky for you I'm a telepath, Barnell...
I know Esme was using Martha Johannson's super-brain to influence your minds.
This is a very nasty cut.
Magneto is not for beginners... I hate to say it, but he would kill all of you in one minute flat.
Is there one guy here who can fight?


There's always *us*, Barnell.
Will *we* do?
Mister *Cyclops!*
And *Fantomex!*
Oh, now we are saved!
Calm down, Barnell.
What's Magneto's plan this time?
The streets are in chaos-- who's *in charge* out there?
Yeah, *out* with it, kid. Seeing as how I'm on the genetic hit-list and all.
Officer Foster. NYPD mutant liaison.
There is no *policeman* who can fight this guy!
You *saw* what he did to Fifth Avenue!
There is *no one* in charge, not even *Magneto!*
They shut down *all* electromagnetic broadcast media.
Effectively, he's *blinded* the planet.
Which makes *telepaths* the only reliable news source. Unfortunately, Magneto keeps his thoughts *shielded*.


And also he is keeping *Professor X* naked in a bottle with his *mind* paralyzed.
And he made *five* telephone calls, yeah? And sent all the super heroes on a wild-goose chase to find a black hole bomb in *Brooklyn* just before he trapped everyone *else* inside his magnetic shield!
He has worked it all to *win* this time!
We *know*...the only thing capable of breaking through that shield is a Super-Sentinel machine.
Luckily, I have *two*.
What happened to the *X-Men*, Barnell? The others?
Ohh, this is not good...
...*Doctor McCoy* and *Miss Frost* were blown up in a plane and...
...and *Mister Logan* and *Mrs. Grey-Summers* were sent into the *sun* days ago!
There *are* no X-Men.
That's not how it looks to *me*.
I hope you all paid attention in *class*, because this is going to be one hell of a *test*.

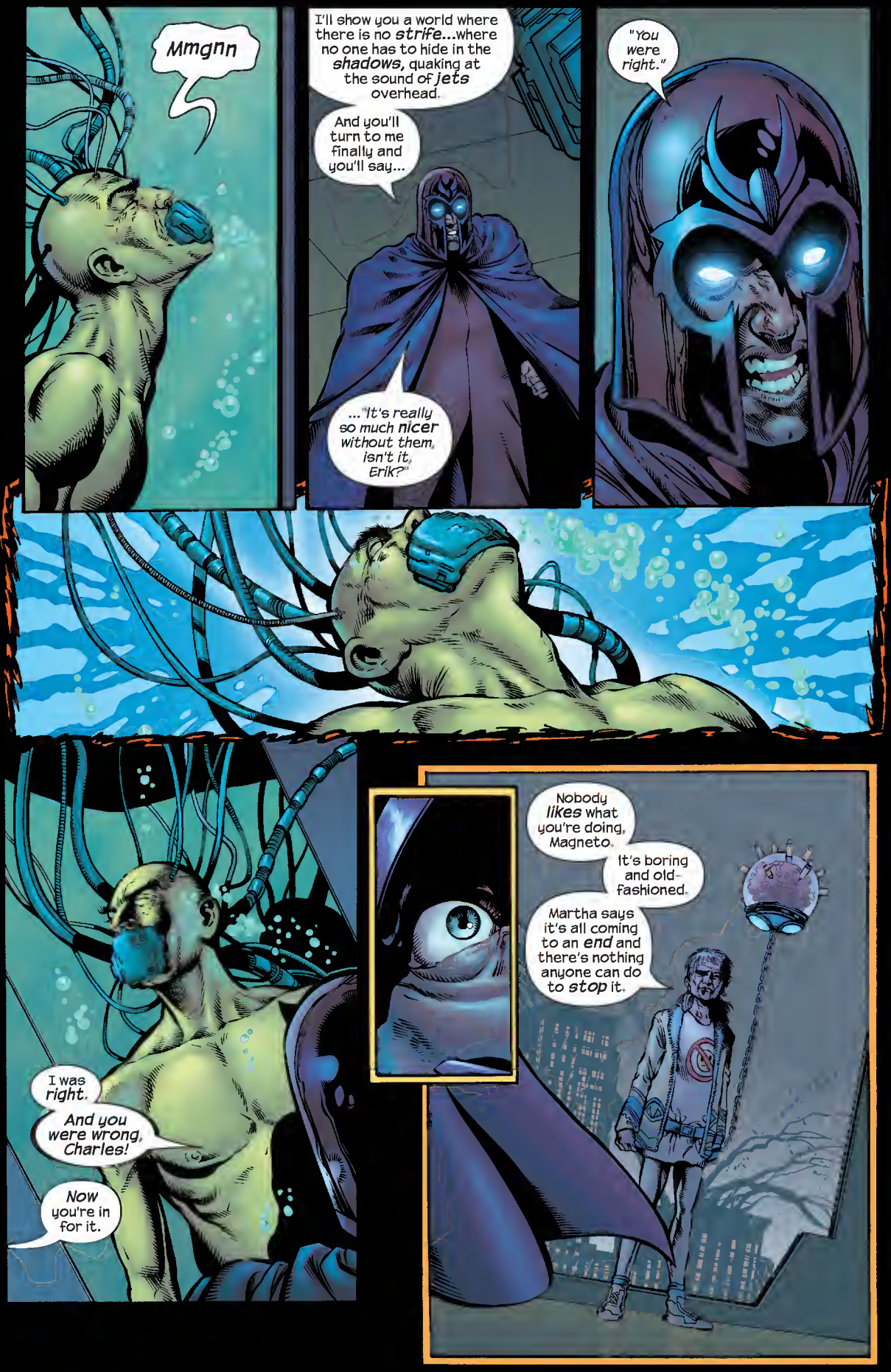

So you intend us to lead a children's crusade against the world's most dangerous super-terrorist?
You heard the telepaths, Monsieur Summers-- war has begun.
The final war between man and mutant.
What's your alternative, Fantomex?
We roll over and die?
There won't be a war! I won't let him start a war and I don't believe for one second that Jean and the others are dead...
It's already started.
Humans were waiting for any excuse!
And Magneto has just hijacked Manhattan, in case you hadn't noticed!
But the humans have not long to make their move!
Tomorrow he is going to turn the magnets of the Earth upside down and kill them all.
Magneto wouldn't... I don't believe he'd try something so stupid.
He could wipe out mutants, as well, and...
...and he doesn't have the power.
No, there is more...
He is using the drug Kick to make his powers greater.
He is fifteen times the Magneto of before!


FFFDPH
I genuinely didn't mean to kill the boy...he was just so...irritating.
The other one was dangerous, but...
You're taking too much of that stuff, Erik.
Why can't you just turn the world on its head now?
Are you waiting for them to stop you?
Here comes your downfall once more, Erik.
What?
I didn't say anything.
What's wrong with you these days?
What happened to the brilliant, charismatic mutant outlaw I fell in love with?
Love?
Esme, in the name of sanity...do you honestly think that this is about you?
You're a child.
But you said we'd take over the world together. You said!
I helped you do all this so that we could sit on thrones together...
Are you insane?
HOW COULD YOU BE ANYTHING TO ME BUT A MEANS TO AN END?!
...that's not what you said....
...that's not what you said!
As predictable as ever.


?!?
Say something again.
You made Xorn too well-- in the image of your idealism, your strength, your wisdom.
NNNAAA


I am your *inner star,* Erik.
I am the conscience you can never silence.
I will never *let you be.*


This...
...this is *your* doing, Charles?
No.
Your mind...still *jammed*.
Is this some *side effect* of the drug that little witch forgot to mention?
Where do you *find* them, Charles? These ghastly, rebellious children of yours?
Why did they only ever listen to me when I was *Xorn*?
You know, I almost *miss* our talks...our struggles.
I was thinking about letting you *walk free* when it's all over.
When there are no humans *left* to save.


Mmgnn
I'll show you a world where there is no strife...where no one has to hide in the shadows, quaking at the sound of jets overhead.
And you'll turn to me finally and you'll say...
..."It's really so much nicer without them, isn't it, Erik?"
"You were right."
I was right.
And you were wrong, Charles!
Now you're in for it.
Nobody likes what you're doing, Magneto.
It's boring and old-fashioned.
Martha says it's all coming to an end and there's nothing anyone can do to stop it.


Charles?
What... what is this place?
Are these words from the future?
What's happening?
It's not a place...
It's not a place...


Jean?
Is that you?
TO BE CONTINUED


THE MIGHTY
THOR
DISASSEMBLED
MARVEL
PSR 83 585
OEMING
DiVITO
VILLARI
fgd
RAGNAROK
4 OF 6

Ragnarok

Part The Fourth




KRAKKA-THOOM!
WHAT IS THIS?? WHO DARES LAY A HAND ON THE MIGHTY THOR??
WHO--
LAYS--
HAND--
THOOM! THOOM! THOOM! THOOM! THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!
ON--
THE MIGHTY--
THOR?!?!
KRAKA-DOOOM!!


WHAT DEMONS STAND WITH THIS ONE?
DON'T MAKE ME ASK AGAIN.
THOR, MY OATH-BROTHER! THE ODINPOWER THAT BLESSES MY HAMMER CALLS ME HERE!
BETA RAY BILL--YOU HAVE BEEN MISSED!
BILL!
LADY SIF...


SIT, THUNDER GOD. THERE IS NO SHAME IN RESTING AFTER BATTLE. WHERE IS YOUR FATHER, ODIN, GOD OF THE GODS?
BILL, SO MUCH HAS COME AND GONE. FATHER IS DEAD, AS ARE MY MOTHER AND BALDER. LOKI HAS RAISED AN ARMY TO DESTROY US... THESE ARE OUR LAST DAYS, MY FRIEND.
WE HAVE MISSED YOU ALL OF US. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THESE YEARS?
AT PEACE WITH MY PEOPLE. I WILL GRIEVE FOR YOUR NOBLE FATHER IN THE WAY OF MY KIND.
THIS WILL HELP HEAL YOU, IT HAS SERVED ME MANY TIMES.
THANK YOU, OLD FRIEND. I FEEL MY STRENGTH RETURN EVEN AS WE SPEAK...
VOLSTAGG, GATHER SOME MEN-- COUNT THE DEAD AND WOUNDED. PREPARE A PYRE FOR BRUNHILDE. ONE TO MARK THIS AGE.
I... SHE...YES, MY LORD.
"MY LORD"?
YES, MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED, BILL.
I SEE.
BUT OTHERS HAVE NOT.


SO MUCH SADNESS HAS BEFALLEN YOUR FAMILY--AND YOUR PEOPLE.
THESE ARE THE END TIMES, MY FRIEND. I SENT AWAY MY BROTHERS FROM EARTH WHO CAME TO HELP. THEY SHOULD NOT MEET THEIR DOOM IN A LAND WHERE THEY DO NOT BELONG. AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU.
I AM STAYING, THUNDER GOD, AND YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO EVICT ME, ARE YOU? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO THEN?
STAY HERE, BILL, IN MY PLACE! ASGARD MUST NOT BE WITHOUT A LORD WHILE I AM GONE!
WHAT?! GONE? BUT I'M NOT OF YOUR PEOPLE...
IN A SMALL WAY, NEITHER AM I. I AM FROM TWO WORLDS, ONE OF THE GODS ONE OF MORTALS. I CAN STILL FEEL THE HEART AND LESSONS OF MAN IN MY SOUL.
I UNDERSTAND. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN... ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE. UNTIL YOU AND YOUR FATHER BLESSED ME WITH KINSHIP.
MY FRIEND. YOU ARE A HERO HERE. YOU ARE ONE OF THEM, AS MUCH AS I.
I LEAD THE GODS--ALTHOUGH I AM THEIR KING...I AM A GOD WITH A MAN'S HEART...SEPARATE AND YET THE SAME AS YOU ARE.
A TRUE LEADER MUST SET HIMSELF APART FROM THOSE HE LEADS. AS A PARENT MUST FROM A CHILD.
TRUE. I FEEL MORE A FATHER TO THEM THAN A KING. I REPLACE MY OWN FATHER ON ASGARD'S THRONE, YET I CANNOT REPLACE HIS WISDOM. I MUST SEEK THAT.
LEAD THEM AS I HAVE. LADY SIF WILL BE YOUR COUNSEL.


I DON'T KNOW HOW I ESCAPED THE FALL OF ALFHEIM, VOLSTAGG...THE FURY OF BATTLE AND THE FEVER OF MY WOUND SENT ME INTO A BERSERKER RAGE.
WE HAVE ALL BEEN PUSHED TO OUR LIMITS, LADY SIF. THOR AND DUROK...I NEVER THOUGHT EVEN HE COULD...WELL AND YOU...
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE LOST, DESTROYED BY...HIS HORDE. I CAN'T EVEN SAY HIS BLASTED NAME. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU THEN?
I WAS FOUND BY BRUNNHILDE, VALKYRIE AND DEFENDER ON EARTH. SHE RETURNED FROM MIDGARD, HEEDING THE CALL OF DOOM.
WHEN I RECOVERED, SHE BLESSED ME WITH CHIEFDOM OF THE VALKYRIES. THEIR SIGHT HAD BECOME SO CLOUDED WITH DEATH... THEY NEEDED FRESH EYES TO GUIDE THEM.
AND NOW THEY ARE BROKEN. ONLY A FEW REMAIN. WITH BRUNNHILDE'S ENCHANTED BLADE, DRAGONFANG, I MUST LEAD THEM. HONOR HER MEMORY. AND MY BROTHER HEIMDALL.
IT WAS A GREAT LOSS. HER PYRE WILL BURN WITH HONOR FOR MANY DAYS, LADY SIF. HER ENDING, AND THOSE OF OUR BROTHERS, MAY MARK OUR ENDING AS WELL.


MY LORD...
THE BOY WAS FOUND WITH THE OLD AND YOUNG. HE FOUGHT...
EVEN TO THE CHILD, YOUR PEOPLE ARE WARRIORS.
IS NONE OF MY FAMILY SAFE UNDER THE SHADOW OF MY WINGS, BILL?
I HAD A SON ONCE--MAGNI--IN A WORLD I LEFT BEHIND.
I HAD THE ODINPOWER, BUT UPON MY RETURN, I FOUND IT STRIPPED FROM ME. WHY?
IF ONLY IT WERE STILL MINE, THIS WOULD ALL BE OVER SO SWIFTLY!
MUST EVERY SON LOSE HIS FATHER? MUST EVERY FATHER LOSE HIS SON? WHY MUST MY FATHER DIE AND YET SURTUR LIVE ON?
BE WITH ODIN, BOY...

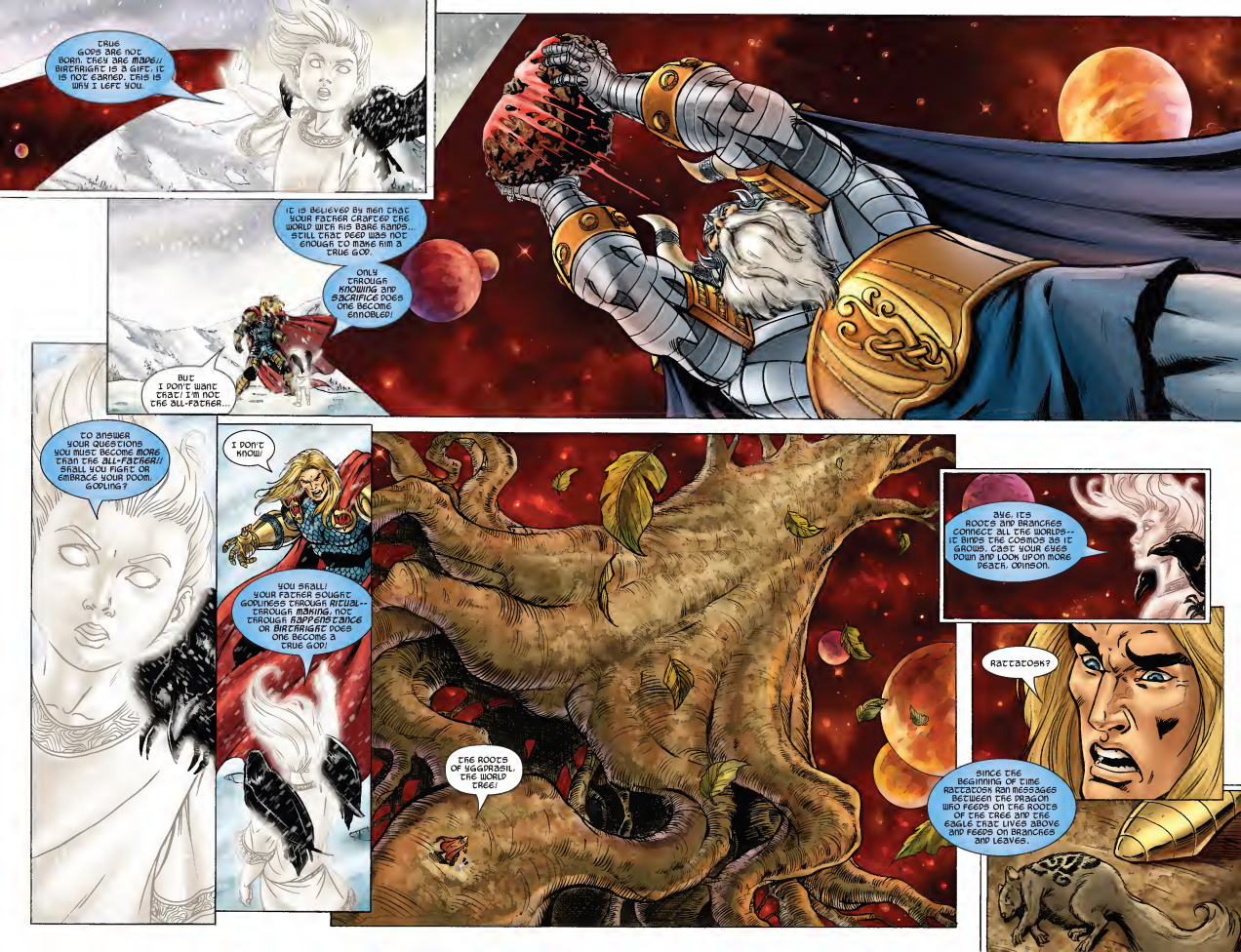

WARRIORS OF ODIN! WE HAVE FACED THE FORGE OF DEATH MANY TIMES--AND STILL WE SURVIVE! I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A TIME, BUT I WILL RETURN.
IN MY LEAVE, MY BROTHER IN ARMS AND DEFENDER OF ASGARD BETA RAY BILL WILL STAND IN MY PLACE AS YOUR KING.
HE IS MY EQUAL IN BATTLE AND BLESSED BY MY FATHER--AS IS HIS HAMMER--AND IT IS UNBROKEN!
HE WILL GUIDE YOU, PROTECT YOU! IF NEED BE, HE SHALL DIE FOR YOU! YOU WILL OBEY HIM AS YOU WOULD ME, UNTIL MY RETURN.
HAIL KING THOR! HAIL AND HONOR TO BETA RAY BILL--OUR KING IN HIS STEAD!
"I KNOW NOT WHAT ILLNESS OF THE SOUL HAS FINALLY BROKEN LOKI. BUT I DO KNOW THAT TO FACE HIM WILL BE TO FACE MYSELF.
"WE CANNOT LEAN ON STRENGTH ALONE. IN THESE TIMES, WE MUST ACT WITH WISDOM! I MUST SEEK THE WISDOM OF ODIN, FOR IT WAS MY FATHER'S GREATEST STRENGTH!
"I LEAVE YOU NOW IN BODY, BUT MY SPIRIT REMAINS HERE IN OUR LAND, IN OUR BLOOD!"

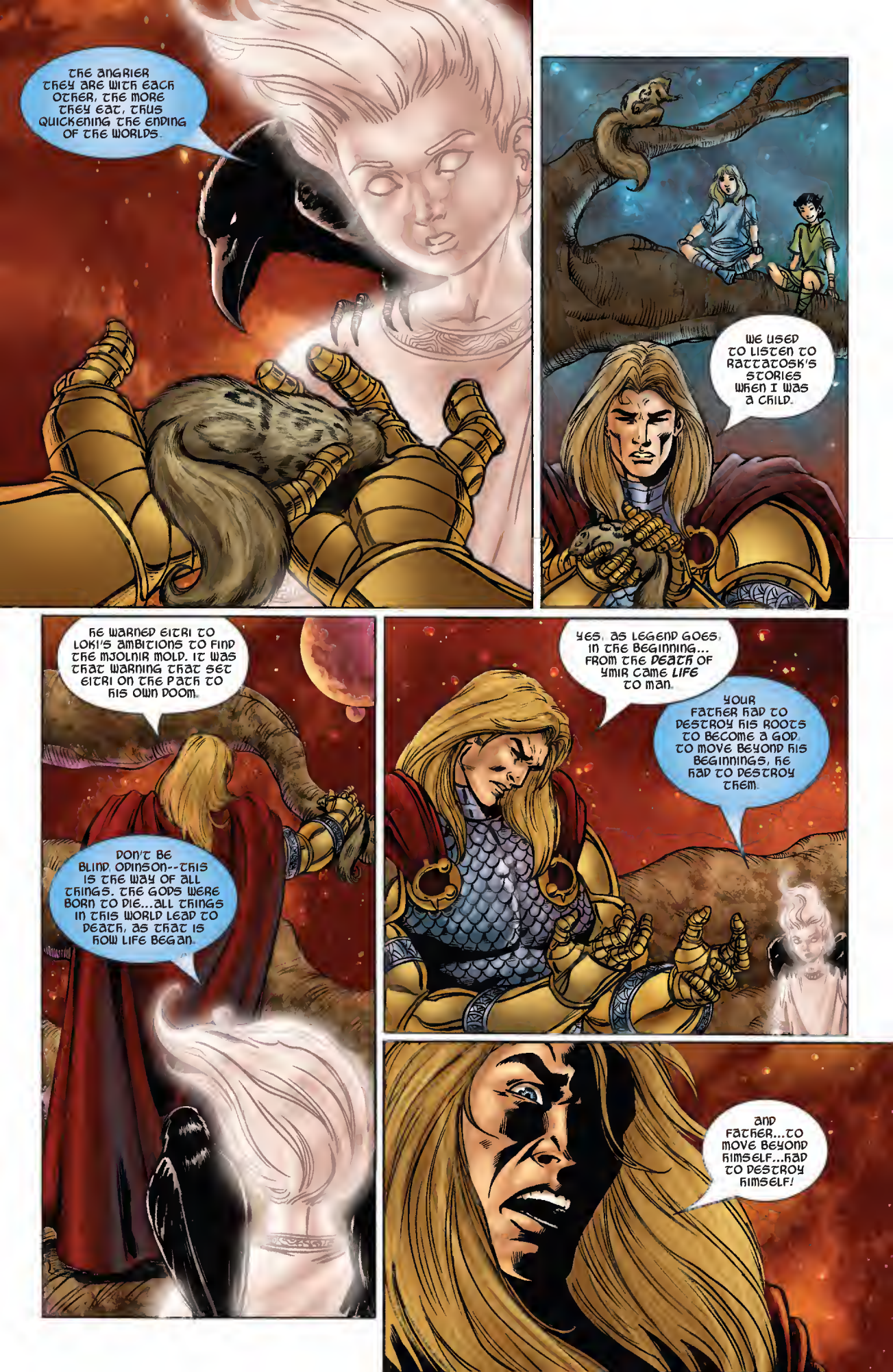

HILDSTALF, WHERE ALL THINGS ARE SEEN. I WISH I COULD SEE MY FALLEN MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS... IF ONLY I COULD SEEK THE GREAT WISDOM OF ODIN...BUT THESE THINGS ARE BEYOND THE POWER OF HILDSTALF. IF ONLY THE ODINPOWER WAS NOT STRIPPED OF ME UPON MY RETURN TO ASGARD.
DID FATHER FORESEE THIS? WAS THIS MEANT TO BE? IF SO, SHOULD I FIGHT THIS ENDING OR EMBRACE IT? WHAT DOES THIS CYCLE MEAN?
CURSE YOU, LOKI! WHY DO YOU DO THIS?
WERE YOU NOT RAISED BY THE SAME MOTHER? DID WE NOT PLAY TOGETHER UNDER THE SAME SUN?


FRIGGA LOVED US BOTH AS IF WE WERE HER OWN CHILDREN. HOW COULD YOU HAVE DONE THESE THINGS?
WE WERE BOTH FOSTERED--TAKEN IN BY MY FATHER, ODIN, AND OUR MOTHER, FRIGGA. YOU WERE ONE OF US, ONCE...AND WE LOVED YOU THEN...
THAT WAS A JOYOUS TIME, WHEN WE WERE A TRUE FAMILY. IT PASSED TOO SWIFTLY.
SOON I WAS ON EARTH, FIGHTING BESIDE MIGHTY HEROES OF MIDGARD!
THEY TOO BECAME MY BROTHERS... MORE DAYS THAT PASSED TOO QUICKLY
FATHER DIED AS HE LIVED. IT WAS A WARRIOR'S DEATH. A GOOD DEATH!
MOTHER...I WAS NOT THERE FOR HER.. I'VE SAVED ENTIRE WORLDS, BUT I COULD NOT SAVE MY OWN MOTHER OR BROTHERS.
I'VE LIVED MANY LIFETIMES. I'VE BEEN TO THE FUTURE AND BACK AGAIN, I'VE WIELDED THE ODINPOWER--YET I COULD NOT SAVE FRIGGA OR PROTECT MY PEOPLE.
DAMN MY EYES! DAMN ME!
SURELY FATHER SAW THIS DAY WOULD COME? WHY NOT PREPARE ME FOR IT? IS THIS FATE?
SHOULD I EMBRACE OUR DOOM?
NO, I MUST FIGHT! I...
YOU MUST SEEK KNOWLEDGE. YOU MUST SEEK A DEEPER KNOWING!


WHAT GHOST IS THIS? ...AND WITH MY FATHER'S LONG-LOST RAVENS, HUGIN AND MUNIN.
MIGHTY THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, THY MORTAL LIFE SETS THEE APART FROM THE GODS, JUST AS THY GODLINESS SET THEE APART FROM MORTALS--OPEN YOUR EYES! WHO DO YOU SEE BEFORE YOU?


I..
STOP THINKING, THUNDER GOD! JUST TELL ME WHO I AM. REACH INTO THINE HEART AND FIND THE TRUTH!
THE BOY. DEAD! IRON MAN COULD DETECT NO LIFE IN YOU--IT WAS NO FAILING OF HIS TECHNOLOGY! BUT I SEE...
USE THINE HEART, NOT THY EYES.
YOU ARE NOT TRULY THE BOY...YOU--YOU ARE THE ODINPOWER, TAKING THE BOY'S FORM?!
YES! YOU SEEK ANSWERS, A DEEPER KNOWING. YOU SEEK THE KNOWLEDGE OF A GOD!
BUT HOW? WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME WHEN I RETURNED TO ASGARD?
YOU HAVE PROVEN UNREADY FOR SUCH THINGS-- UNWORTHY BY YOUR ACTIONS!
IN YOUR HANDS, MY POWER WAS USED AS A CURE-ALL, AND YET YOU LEARNED NOTHING FROM ITS USE! YOU CANNOT USE SUCH POWER WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING IT! LOOK AT WHAT IT WROUGHT YOU IN THE FUTURE YOU FLED! TO FIND YOUR ANSWERS YOU MUST WALK THE PATH OF THE ALL-FATHER TO BECOME A GOD.
BUT I *AM* A GOD! FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I LEAD THE AESIR NOW.


TRUE GODS ARE NOT BORN. THEY ARE MADE// BIRTHRIGHT IS A GIFT. IT IS NOT EARNED. THIS IS WHY I LEFT YOU.
IT IS BELIEVED BY MEN THAT YOUR FATHER CRAFTED THE WORLD WITH HIS BARE HANDS... STILL THAT DEED WAS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM A TRUE GOD.
ONLY THROUGH KNOWING AND SACRIFICE DOES ONE BECOME ENNOBLED!
BUT I DON'T WANT THAT! I'M NOT THE ALL-FATHER...
TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS YOU MUST BECOME MORE THAN THE ALL-FATHER!! SHALL YOU FIGHT OR EMBRACE YOUR DOOM, GODLING?
I DON'T KNOW!!
YOU SHALL! YOUR FATHER SOUGHT GODLINESS THROUGH RITUAL-- THROUGH ASKING, NOT THROUGH KAPPENSTANCE OR BIRTHRIGHT DOES ONE BECOME A TRUE GOD!
THE ROOTS OF YGGDRASIL, THE WORLD TREE!
AYE. ITS ROOTS AND BRANCHES CONNECT ALL THE WORLDS-- IT BINDS THE COSMOS AS IT GROWS. CAST YOUR EYES DOWN AND LOOK UPON MORE DEATH, ODINSON.
RATTATOSK?
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME RATTATOSK RAN MESSAGES BETWEEN THE DRAGON WHO FEEDS ON THE ROOTS OF THE TREE AND THE EAGLE THAT LIVES ABOVE AND FEEDS ON BRANCHES AND LEAVES.


THE ANGRIER THEY ARE WITH EACH OTHER, THE MORE THEY EAT, THUS QUICKENING THE ENDING OF THE WORLDS.
WE USED TO LISTEN TO RATTATOSK'S STORIES WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
HE WARNED EITRI TO LOKI'S AMBITIONS TO FIND THE MJOLNIR MOLD. IT WAS THAT WARNING THAT SET EITRI ON THE PATH TO HIS OWN DOOM.
DON'T BE BLIND, ODINSON--THIS IS THE WAY OF ALL THINGS. THE GODS WERE BORN TO DIE...ALL THINGS IN THIS WORLD LEAD TO DEATH, AS THAT IS HOW LIFE BEGAN.
YES. AS LEGEND GOES, IN THE BEGINNING... FROM THE DEATH OF YMIR CAME LIFE TO MAN.
YOUR FATHER HAD TO DESTROY HIS ROOTS TO BECOME A GOD. TO MOVE BEYOND HIS BEGINNINGS, HE HAD TO DESTROY THEM.
AND FATHER...TO MOVE BEYOND HIMSELF...HAD TO DESTROY HIMSELF!


YES. TO SEEK TRUE WISDOM, IT IS SAID THAT ODIN CAME HERE, TO THE WELL OF MIMIR.
THE WELL IS DRY. MIMIR IS LONG DEAD. I CAN FIND NO WISDOM HERE.
NEITHER DID YOUR FATHER.
THE WELL DID NOT GIVE HIM WISDOM. THAT CAME FROM RITUAL AND SACRIFICE THAT ALLOWED ODIN TO FIND THE WISDOM WITHIN HIMSELF.
YOU MUST FIND YOUR OWN RITUAL. YOU MUST FACE YOUR FATE AND THAT OF THE GODS.
MUST I PLUCK OUT MY EYE, AS ODIN DID?
ONLY YOU CAN KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE.


IT IS DONE.
FOOL! I AM A FOOL! THE WELL IS STILL DRY, AND I'VE SACRIFICED AN EYE TO IT!
YOU HAVE SACRIFICED NOTHING.
NOTHING? I TORE OUT MY EYE! MY EYE!
CAW! CAW!
ONE EYE IS NOTHING! ODIN HAS ALREADY MADE THAT SACRIFICE!
YOU CANNOT WALK THE PATH ALREADY TAKEN! REPEATING YOUR FATHER'S DEED IS AN EMPTY GESTURE! EMPTY!
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO!
I MUST TAKE THE PATH NOT YET TAKEN.

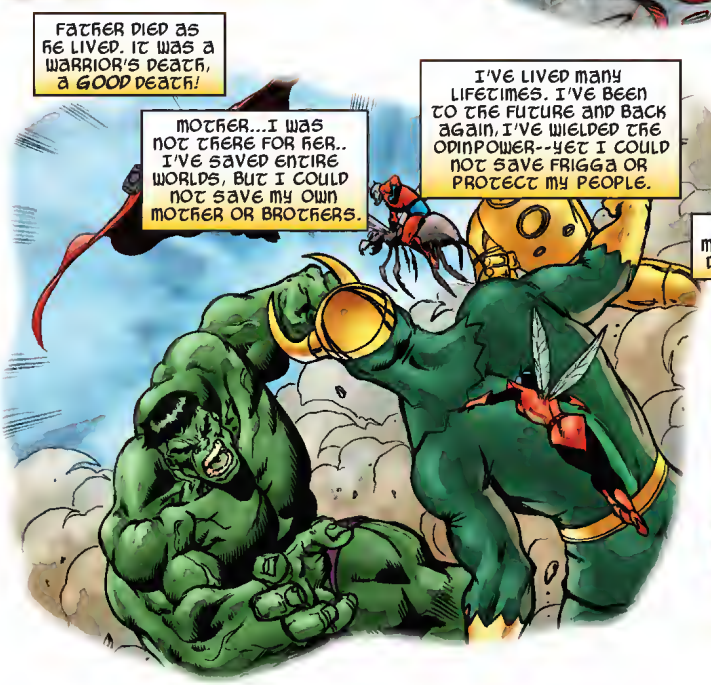

THIS DEED HAS TAKEN ALL MY WILL...AND I AM BLIND! I AM NOTHING.
CAW!
YOU CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE WHAT ENDING WAITS FOR YOU.
DRINK DEEP THE WATERS OF MIMIR'S WELL. REFILL THE CUP OF WISDOM. WITH YOUR EYES FOREVER CLOSED, SEE NOW WITH ALL YOUR BEING! NOW YOU JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!


SEE NOW THE WISDOM OF THE PAST, OPENED BY THE CLARITY OF MIMIR'S WELL.
IT IS SAID IN THE BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS...YMIR, THE COSMIC GIANT, WAS THE FIRST BEING.
THE LEGEND IS ODIN AND HIS BROTHERS MADE THE WORLD OF YMIR'S FLESH!
AND SOME WHISPER HE MADE THE FIRST MAN.
THE DAWN OF THE GOLDEN GODS...


FRIGGA LOVED US BOTH AS IF WE WERE HER OWN CHILDREN. HOW COULD YOU HAVE DONE THESE THINGS?
WE WERE BOTH FOSTERED--TAKEN IN BY MY FATHER, ODIN, AND OUR MOTHER, FRIGGA. YOU WERE ONE OF US, ONCE...AND WE LOVED YOU THEN...
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THEY TOO BECAME MY BROTHERS... MORE DAYS THAT PASSED TOO QUICKLY.




SURELY FATHER SAW THIS DAY WOULD COME? WHY NOT PREPARE ME FOR IT? IS THIS FATE?
SHOULD I EMBRACE OUR DOOM?
NO, I MUST FIGHT! I...


FATHER DIED AS HE LIVED. IT WAS A WARRIOR'S DEATH, A GOOD DEATH!
MOTHER...I WAS NOT THERE FOR HER.. I'VE SAVED ENTIRE WORLDS, BUT I COULD NOT SAVE MY OWN MOTHER OR BROTHERS.
I'VE LIVED MANY LIFETIMES. I'VE BEEN TO THE FUTURE AND BACK AGAIN, I'VE WIELDED THE ODINPOWER--YET I COULD NOT SAVE FRIGGA OR PROTECT MY PEOPLE.


DAMN MY EYES! DAMN ME!
YOU MUST SEEK KNOWLEDGE. YOU MUST SEEK A DEEPER KNOWING!

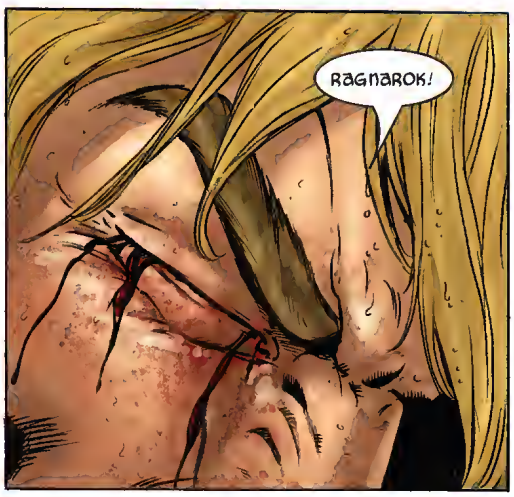

FINDING THE HAMMER...




RAGNAROK.


FATHER DIES WITH SURTUR...


BALDER'S DEATH...


RAGNAROK!


RAGNAROK.
I CAN SEE...THE OLD DREAM. NOW I KNOW...NOW I REMEMBER!
THIS HAS HAPPENED MANY TIMES BEFORE! FATHER HAS DIED MANY TIMES, THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS IS FADING AGAIN! AGAIN!
WE HAVE LOST RAGNAROK TIME AND TIME OVER, AND IT COMES IN MANY FORMS. ONCE MORE I STAND IN ITS SHADOW!
RAGNAROK IS A CYCLE. A CYCLE!
I REMEMBER NOW. ALL OF THE END TIMES, EACH DIFFERENT, AND SOME FALSE. BUT ALWAYS IT COMES. IT IS A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE... WHY!?
FOR THAT KNOWING YOU MUST SEEK THE FUTURE, YOU MUST SEEK THE MAGIC OF THE RUNES.
I AM BLIND! BLIND! HOW CAN I READ RUNES WITHOUT MY EYES?! HOW COULD I BE SO NEEDFUL OF A THING AS TO PAY SUCH A PRICE!?
YOU ARE YOUR FATHER'S SON. THAT IS HOW! WHAT ARE YOUR EYES COMPARED TO YOUR LIFE?
TO COMPLETE YOUR TASK, THUNDER GOD, YOU MUST CAST YOUR VERY LIFE ASIDE! YOU MUST BE REBORN!
BIRTH REQUIRES THE SACRIFICE OF LIFE--BE IT THE PLANTED SEED OR THE BLOOD OF THE MOTHER'S WOMB! YOU MUST CEASE TO BE! YOU MUST BE REMADE!



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PREVIOUSLY IN NEW X-MEN:

MERE DAYS AGO, **CYCLOPS** AND **FANTOMEX** ACCOMPANIED **WOLVERINE** TO AN ORBITING SPACE STATION, THE HIDDEN SITE OF THE WEAPON PLUS PROGRAM. THERE, THE LONG-LOST WEAPON X FILES CONTAINING SOME OF THE SECRETS OF WOLVERINE'S IDENTITY WERE FINALLY REVEALED TO HIM. BUT THE SHOCKING TRUTH WAS TOO MUCH TO HANDLE...FACED WITH THE DISTURBING REALITY OF EXACTLY WHO—AND WHAT—HE WAS, A DISTRAUGHT WOLVERINE DETONATED THE ENTIRE WEAPON PLUS SPACE STATION—AND HIMSELF ALONG WITH IT.

LATER, **JEAN GREY** USED THE **PHOENIX FORCE** TO DETERMINE THAT WOLVERINE WAS STILL ALIVE, AND QUICKLY LOCATED HIM ON A SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR YET ABANDONED ASTEROID COMPLEX. SOON AFTER, THE TWO X-MEN SLOWLY REALIZED THAT SOMEONE HAD SET THEM UP AND LURED THEM TO **ASTEROID M**...THE FORMER HEADQUARTERS OF ONE OF THEIR GREATEST FOES. BUT BEFORE THEY COULD ESCAPE, AN INTENSE EXPLOSION RIPPED THROUGH THE STATION, SHATTERING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.

WITH ALL OF THE X-MEN EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZED, THINGS AT THE XAVIER INSTITUTE DETERIORATED FROM BAD TO HORRIFIC. THE MUTANT HEALER KNOWN ONLY AS **XORN**, WHO HAD BEEN LIVING ALONGSIDE THE X-MEN FOR MONTHS, REVEALED HIMSELF TO BE NONE OTHER THAN **MAGNETO**, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM AND THE X-MEN'S GREATEST FOE!

NOW, WITH THE X-MEN SCATTERED TO THE FARTHEST REACHES OF EARTH AND BEYOND, WITH NEW YORK CITY DESTROYED BEYOND ALL HOPE OF REPAIR, WITH THE X-MEN'S HEADQUARTERS ALL BUT DECIMATED, AND WITH **PROFESSOR XAVIER** CRIPPLED ONCE AGAIN, MAGNETO STANDS POISED ATOP MANHATTAN'S TALLEST SKYSCRAPER, CHRISTENING THE CITY AS **NEW GENOSHA** AND READY TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE PLANET...

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PHOENIX INVICTUS

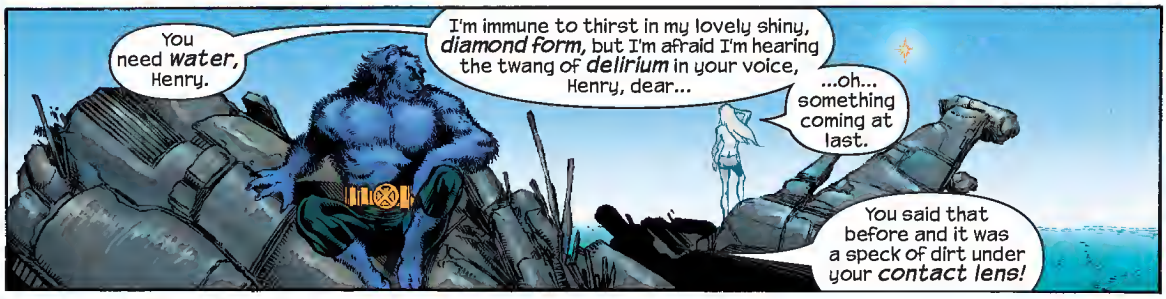


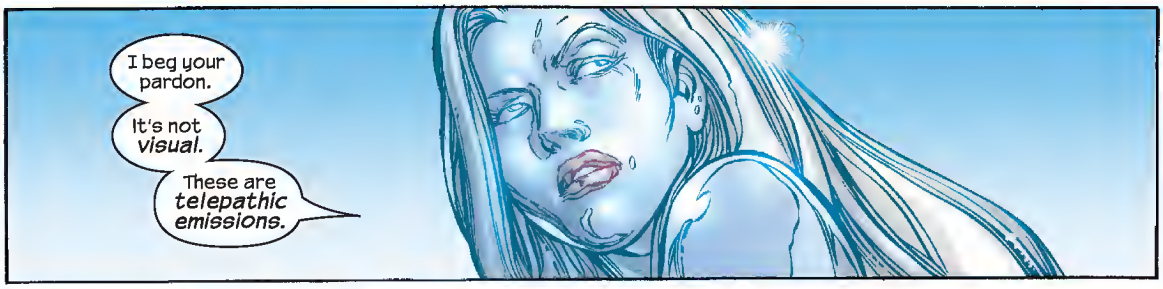


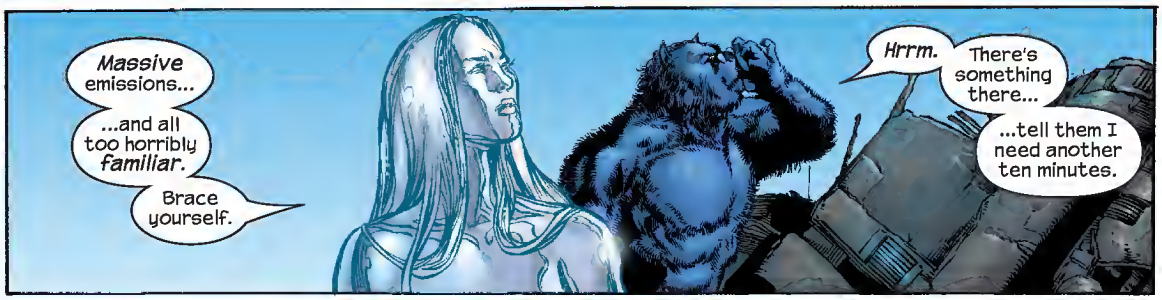
PLANET X
CONCLUSION

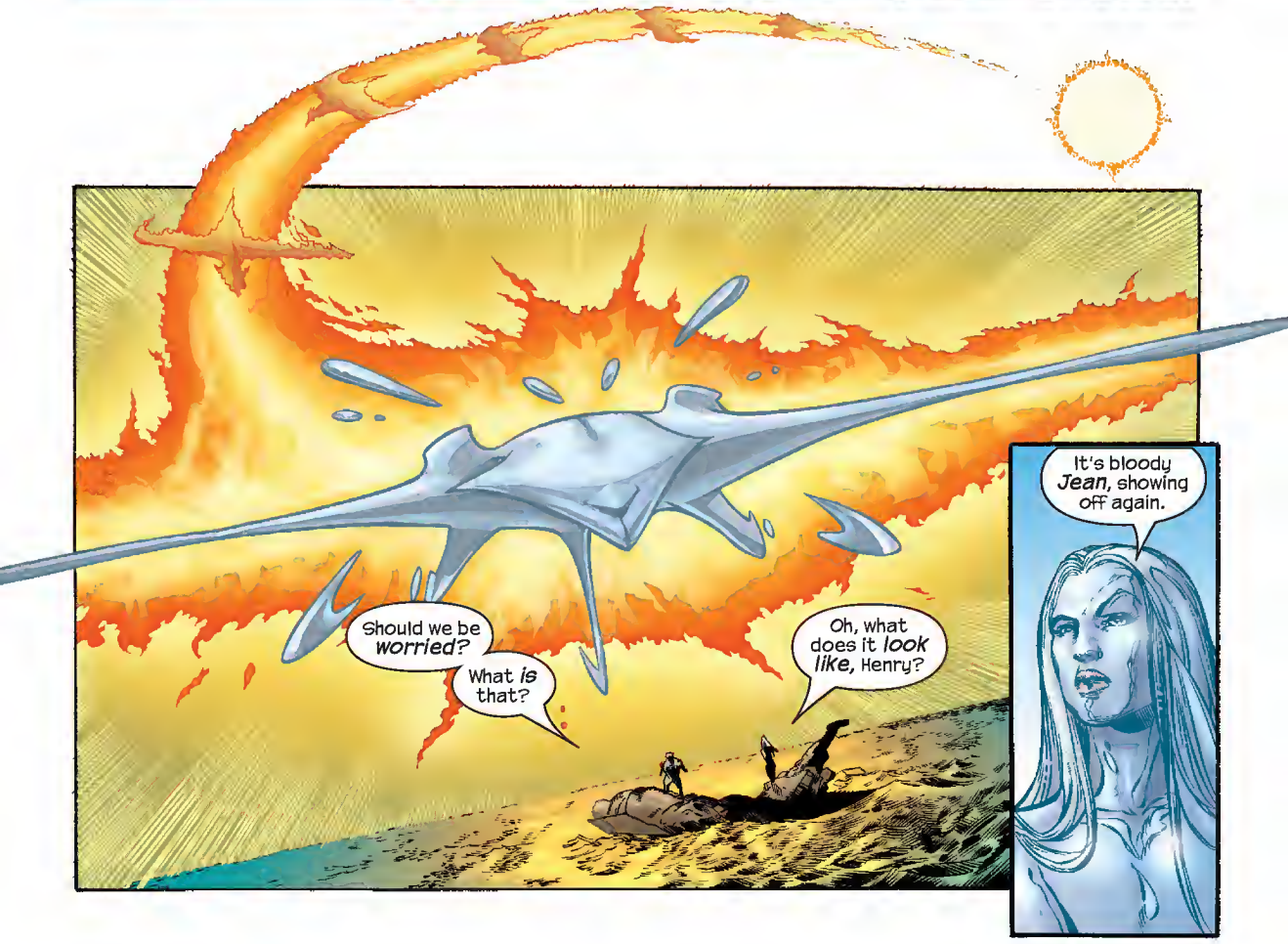
GRANT MORRISON PHIL JIMENEZ ANDY LANNING W/ SIMON COLEBY
WRITER PENCILER & COVER INKERS
CHRIS CHUCKRY CHRIS ELIOPOULOS STEPHANIE MOORE & CORY SEDLMEIER MIKE MARTS JOE QUESADA DAN BUCKLEY
COLORIST LETTERER ASSISTANT EDITORS EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF PUBLISHER


THE PACIFIC OCEAN
...you'd never have survived the explosion if it hadn't been for my quick thinking, Henry.
I can't believe you're still going on about this three days later, Emma!
You'd never have survived this crash if it hadn't been for my quick thinking!
Rubbish!
I wouldn't even have been on this aircraft if I hadn't listened to you...
Something awful's happened, Emma...I know it has.
It's all adding up...Sublime Pharmaceuticals, Feng Tu, the Kick drug, human aggression, the riots...and... and...
GAHH!
I'm ruining my claws doing this!
I have so many ideas I need to get down...
I need a pen.

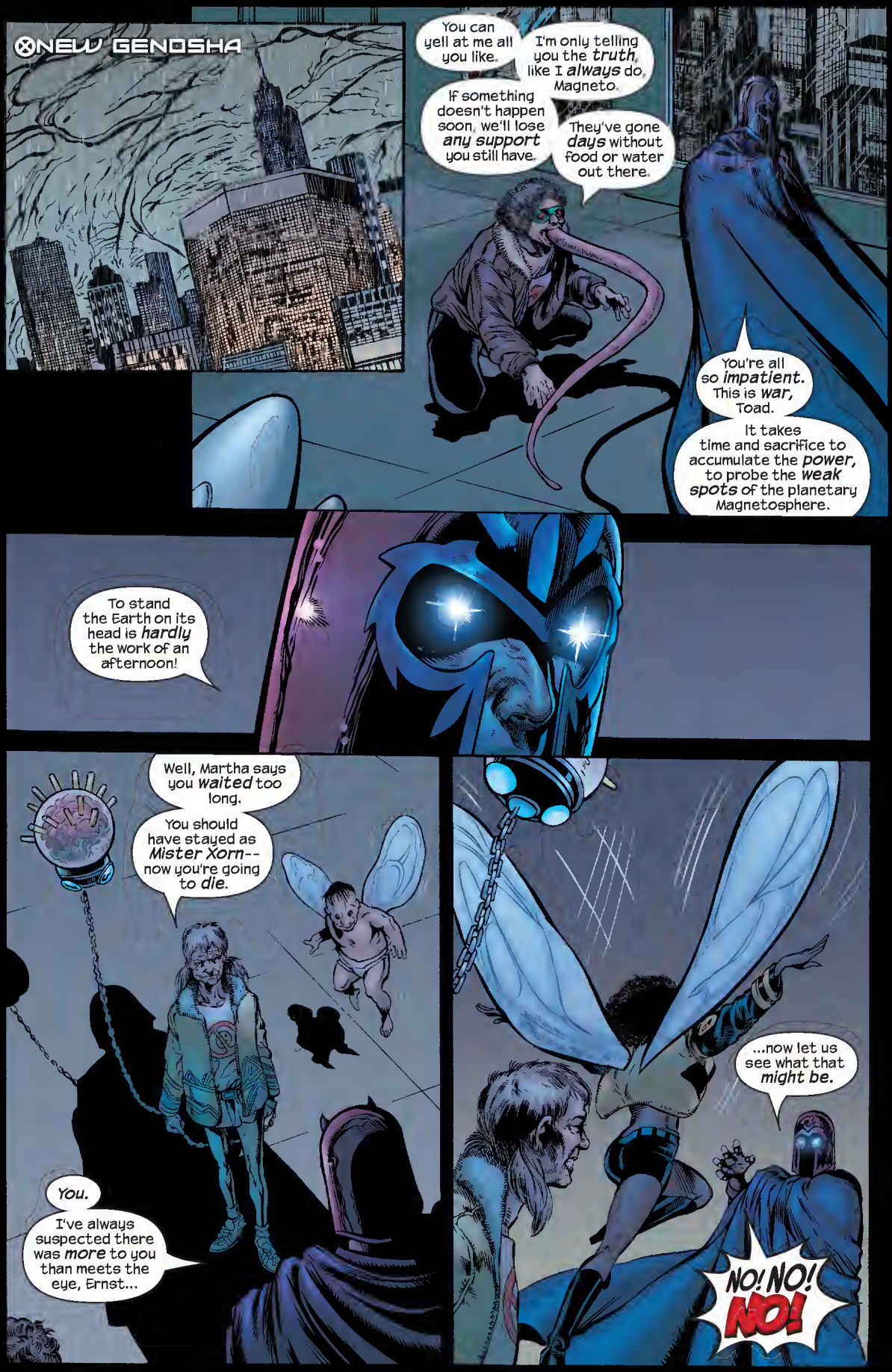

You need *water,* Henry.
I'm immune to thirst in my lovely shiny, *diamond form,* but I'm afraid I'm hearing the twang of *delirium* in your voice, Henry, dear...
...oh... something coming at last.
You said that before and it was a speck of dirt under your *contact lens!*


I beg your pardon.
It's not *visual.*
These are *telepathic emissions.*


Massive emissions...
...and all too horribly *familiar.*
Brace yourself.
Hrrm.
There's something there...
...tell them I need another ten minutes.


Should we be *worried?*
What *is* that?
Oh, what does it *look like,* Henry?
It's bloody *Jean,* showing off again.


WASHINGTON, D.C.
Magneto's holding Manhattan hostage! He's paralyzed our communications and he's threatening to use his magnetic powers to tilt the Earth's axis!
Look at the hate on that face-- do we need any more proof that mutants are our natural enemies?
This is why they destroyed our Weapon Plus Super-Sentinel Initiative.
The human race must not go gently into the night, sir!
We've deployed Y-23 experimental ceramic planes--
You can't ask me to drop bombs on American soil.
Ours is a species fighting for its life.
And these are neutron warheads, sir.
Kills all known mutations stone dead, leaves our architectural heritage intact.
Just say the word.


NEW GENOSHA
You can yell at me all you like.
I'm only telling you the truth, like I always do, Magneto.
If something doesn't happen soon, we'll lose any support you still have.
They've gone days without food or water out there.
You're all so impatient. This is war, Toad.
It takes time and sacrifice to accumulate the power, to probe the weak spots of the planetary Magnetosphere.
To stand the Earth on its head is hardly the work of an afternoon!
Well, Martha says you waited too long.
You should have stayed as Mister Xorn-- now you're going to die.
You.
I've always suspected there was more to you than meets the eye, Ernst...
...now let us see what that might be.
NO! NO! NO!


What is it with you? You wanna give her a heart attack?
Don't you dare lift your hand to one more of us, or...or I'll puke all over you!
My kids don't wanna see a murderin' junkie in charge of the whole world!
See? You should have listened to me, Erik!
But oh, no...I was just a "means to an end" for the great strategist!
Nobody knows who's in charge or what's going on anymore!
I am in charge, Esme.
Yeah, maybe if crazy on drugs is your idea of being in charge!
?
Here is the news--The X-Men are here to kick your butt big time!
Angel! Kids!
Get behind me!
Oh, for goodness sake, Beak.
You are joking, aren't you?


KWHAAAK!
Well done, boy.
You passed my test and returned a stronger man.
Brilliant idea to use a titanium bat against the Master of Magnetism.
How did you get in here, anyway?
Maybe with this key you forgot to take away when "he" is being sent to his death!
Xavier school is the best school!
Pacify him, Esme.
:Tt:
You pacify him if you're so great.
Esme...I'm sorry if I upset you or misled you...
Why should I do anything for you ever again?
Oh...


...Weapon Thirteen.
Fantomex.
What now?
Bullets?
E.V.A. Prepare to retrieve Professor X.
CHAAOUR!
Unnnh!
URR!
DESTROY HIM!


What?
And get ourselves shot?
HE'S MINE!
You and whose knees?
SPAK!
SPAK!
GGGHAAAUU
AUUUUGGHHH
FAUUHH!


Missed.
AAAUUUU
Is everything you say a cliché?
Die.


UNN!
GGAHH
Uh-oh.
HERE HE COMES!
What next?
Underneath us!
He's...


:kaff:
Summers...
You know something? Even after everything that happened to me, I still *trusted* you. I thought Xorn was a genuinely *good man*...
...he gave me *hope*... and it was *you* all along.
LIES!
HNNN!
YOU FILLED ALL OUR LIVES WITH LIES!

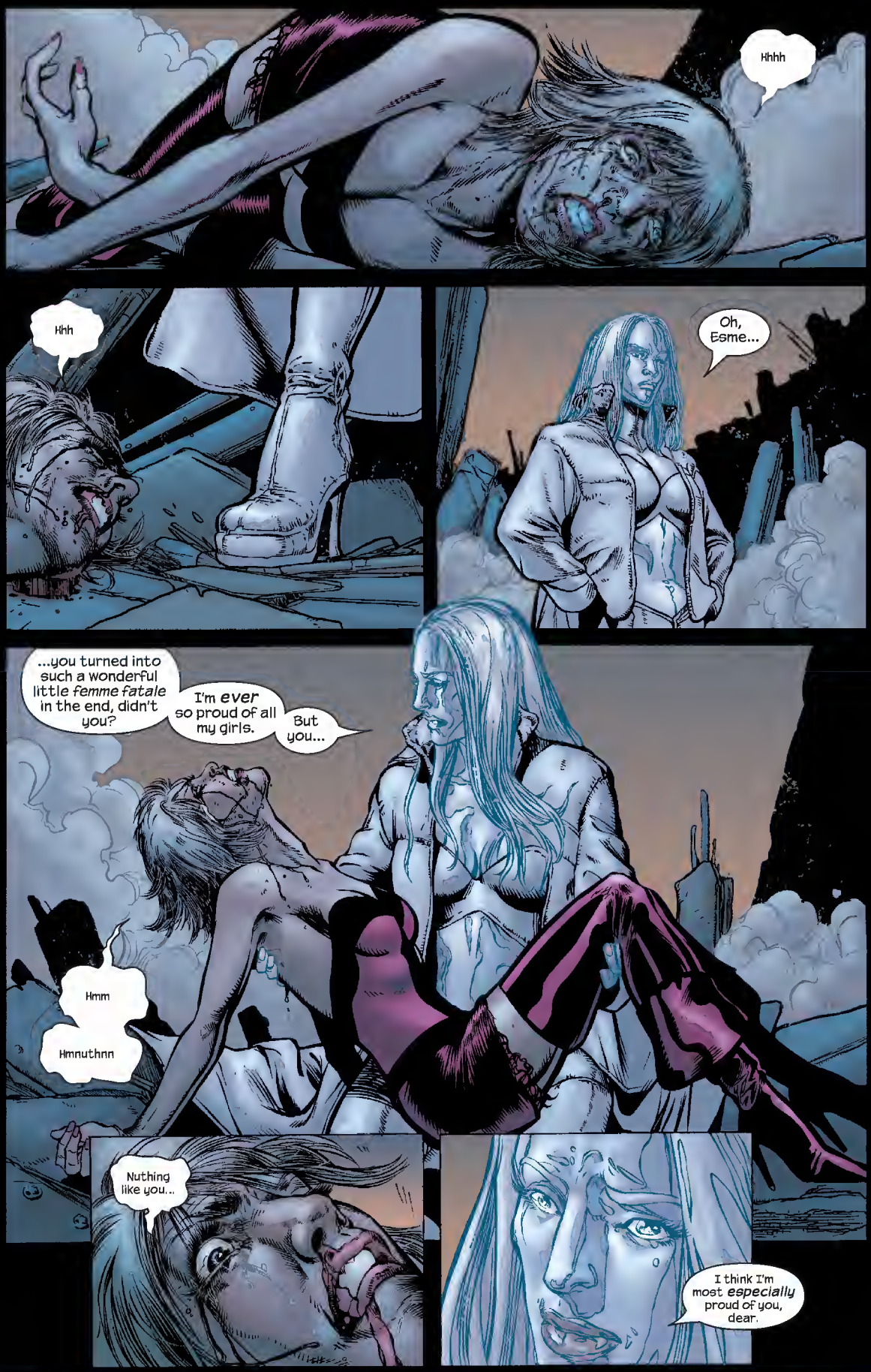

You know how stupid I've been? Of course you do, you've been watching us for months!
I kept running from all the rotten feelings En Sabah Nur brought out in me!
Running from this rage I've repressed all my life!
So you know what? No more running. No more holding back. I've decided to let the rage loose.
I've decided to let it loose on people like you.
The helmet keeps you safe from telepathy, right?
Wait.
Nn!
WHUUI
Oh

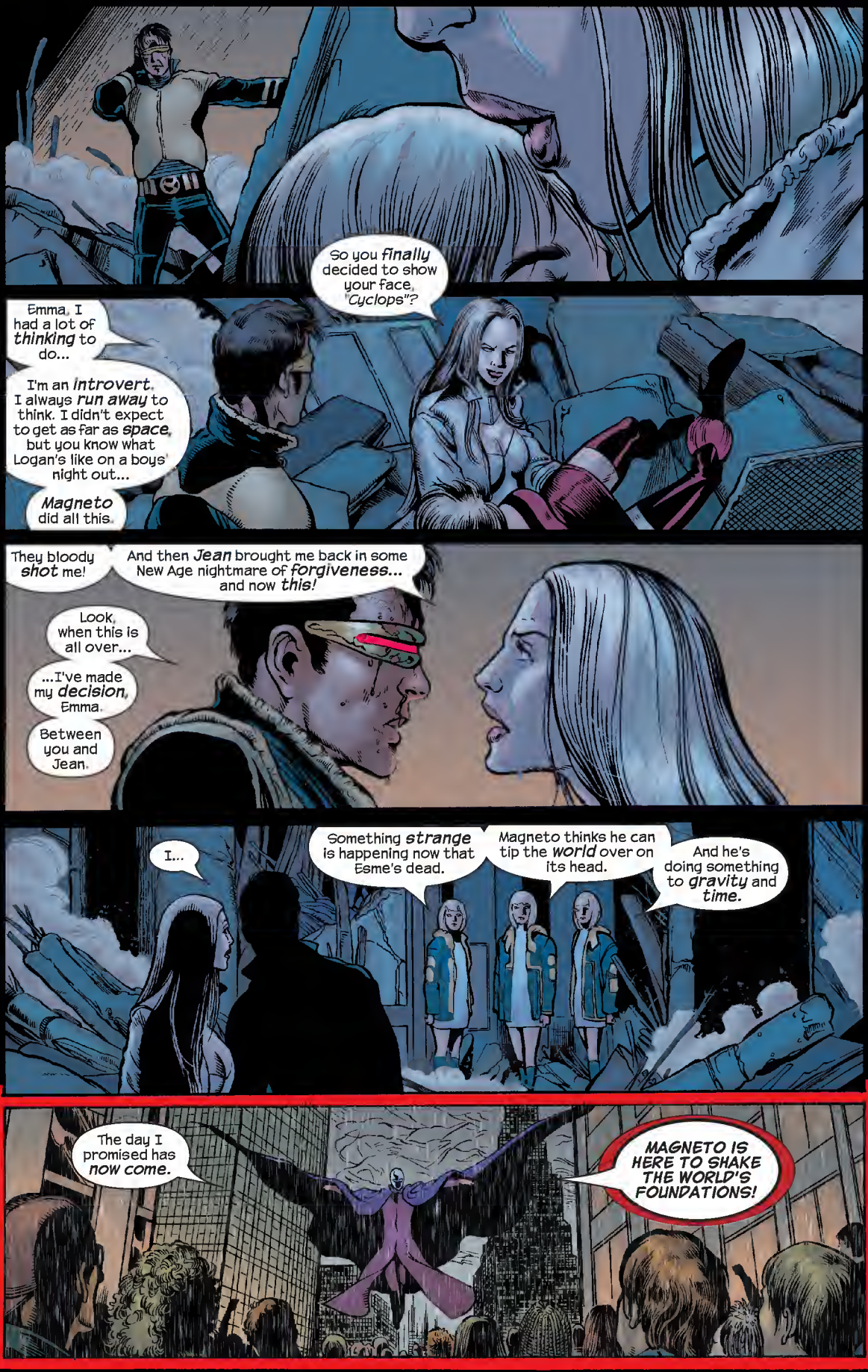

I can't... see...
...what have you done? My eyes... bleeding...
...eardrums burst...
What?
Look, I didn't mean to--
You want Xorn?
Have him, Mister Summers.
HUTT!
X-Men street team's on Fifth Avenue.
Telepathic crowd control is underway, but the pilots overhead are preparing to drop their bombs.
Welcome back from all of us, Professor X.


nnn... what's he done to me...? My head's ringing...
Hnnf
Charles? Is that you, prowling...?
AUUGHH!
Charles...
Do I look like an old, bald man?
I mean, have you ever even noticed how I look? How I dress because you made me believe in myself?
I thought you were special. The greatest mutant who ever lived...
But you're just a fossil.
This is how Alzheimer's feels, Erik. In fast forward.
Y-you're squeezing my mind... breaking...
...don't do this ...
...don't make me...
Utt


Uscchh
Gutt
Htt
Forgive me.
May the future forgive me.
Fff
May history judge my actions, great or small.
In the final reckoning... when I have given them paradise and the world is free...
...these poor dead will not seem so many.
Now let the sky fall.


It just appeared!
There are two suns up here! Figure it out!
And one of 'em says we shouldn't be engaging bomb release...
The baritone is mine.
This is Doctor Henry McCoy, PhD. From the Xavier Institute.
X-Men mutant rescue and emergency teams have the terrorist situation in Manhattan under control and we ask for a moment to confirm Magneto's capture.
Magneto has declared war on the human race.
Our scientists tell us we have nothing to lose.
So tell me--how can we trust a word you people say?
I'll leave the details of that to you, but you may just have to accept that not all mutants are your enemies.
You see, there's only one person in the world who's figured out how to repair the gene that's threatening humankind with extinction.
Moi.
Now...
...check with your scientists. Surely there's some way we can all be friends, Mister President?


Hhhh
Hhh
Oh, Esme...
...you turned into such a wonderful little *femme fatale* in the end, didn't you?
I'm *ever* so proud of all my girls.
But you...
Hmm
Hmnuthnn
Nuthing like you...
I think I'm most *especially* proud of you, dear.


So you finally decided to show your face, "Cyclops"?
Emma. I had a lot of thinking to do...
I'm an introvert. I always run away to think. I didn't expect to get as far as space, but you know what Logan's like on a boys' night out...
Magneto did all this.
They bloody shot me!
And then Jean brought me back in some New Age nightmare of forgiveness... and now this!
Look, when this is all over...
...I've made my decision, Emma.
Between you and Jean.
I...
Something strange is happening now that Esme's dead.
Magneto thinks he can tip the world over on its head.
And he's doing something to gravity and time.
The day I promised has now come.
MAGNETO IS HERE TO SHAKE THE WORLD'S FOUNDATIONS!


So, who's this guy?
When do we get to see Magneto?
Magneto!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
You're under arrest! Foster, NYPD.
You got a spare day and a half, I'll read you the charge sheet!
Your race will be extinct by morning.
Where will your laws be then?
I can't help but notice that metal pin in your hip, Officer Foster. Line of duty?
LOOK, EVERYONE!
A human, trying to threaten us!
KILL IT!


KILL THEM ALL.
Nice timing! I was three seconds from messing myself!
See how I softened him up for you, Henry?
All yours.
RAAAAUUUURRR!
UHH
UNNGGH!


Gotcha!
This should help neutralize the Kick enhancer in your bloodstream.
I can't believe you'd do this, Xorn!
You of all people, Xorn!
NOT XORN!
MAGNETO!
OWW!
LOGAN!


I AM MAGNETO!
That's what you say.
Remember me, Xorn?
I'm the guy you threw at the sun, bub!
And let me tell ya, right now, the only thing keeping you breathing's a pacifist creed I don't wholly subscribe to.
What's all this Xorn garbage? You know who I am!
Must I tear your Adamantium skull from your head just to prove it, Wolverine?
Yeah, yeah.
Quit stalling.
He's right, Erik--don't let us stand in the way of your big moment.
It's hard to believe you went to such lengths this time--you should have been an actor.
My helmet is thought-proofed, Jean Grey...
...this isn't going to end...
We're too late to stop you making another destructive bid for attention, true.
So go on, Magneto--seize your moment. Talk to the people you want to rule.
Make your pitch for world domination.

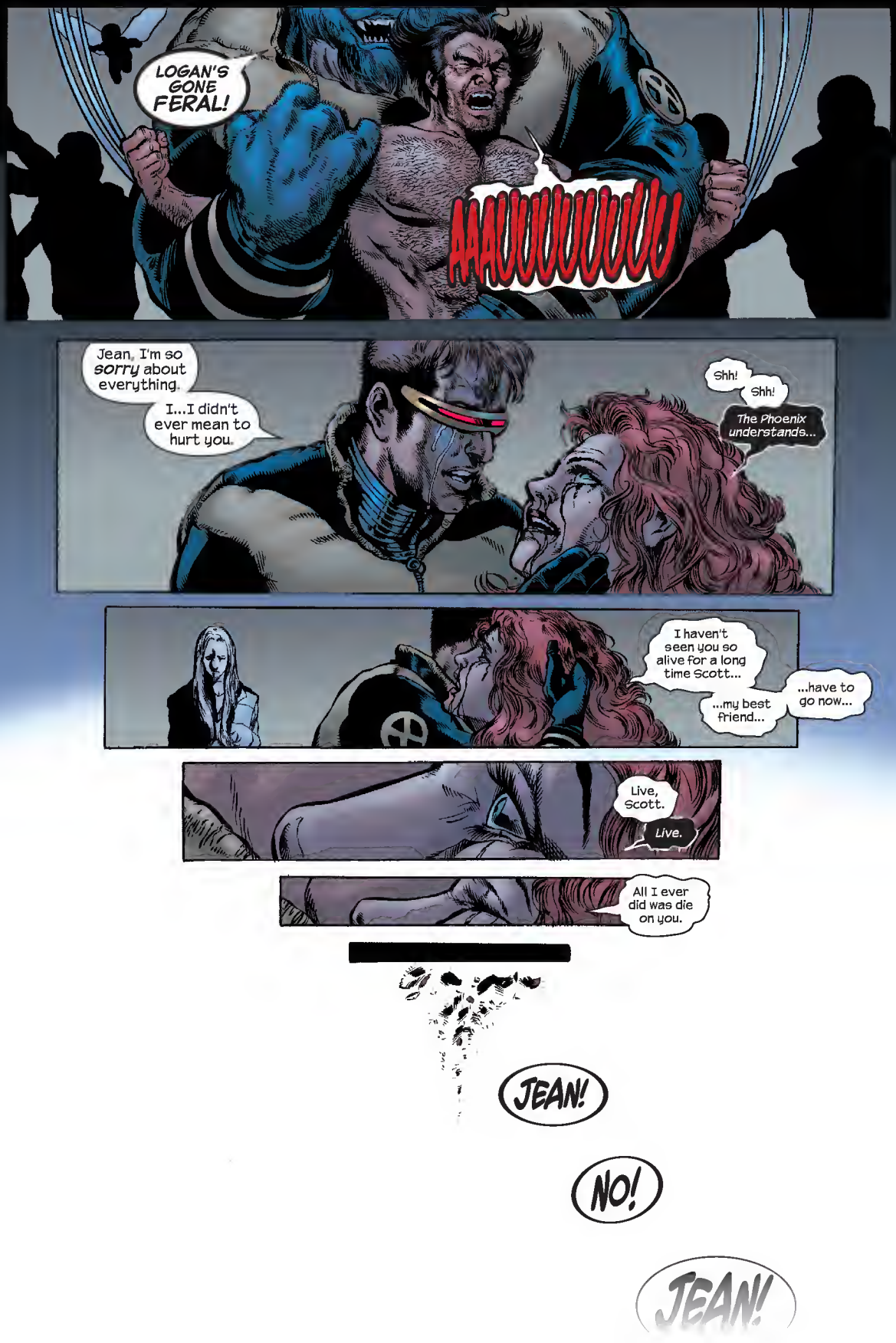

We don't want this guy in charge of things!
We got no water!
Who does this skull-face freak think he is?
Take over the world? He couldn't run a market stall!
FORGET
REST
How dare you!
Don't you recognize who I am? What I am? This chaos is only the first stage!
I am Magneto! Trust me!
Magneto?
You don't look anything like him.
How can you be Magneto when Magneto is dead?
Is this the Magneto anyone knows?
Is this what he looks like?
Nnff
...I-I'm suffocating in here...
...I have to get out.
See, you morons!
I AM MAGNETO.


AKK
I am.
And the worst thing you ever did was to come back, Erik.
Magneto had become a legend in death, an inspiration for change.
Now look at you--just another foolish and self-important old man, with outdated thoughts in his head.
You have nothing this new generation of mutants wants...except for your face on a T-shirt.
They have ideas of their own now. Perhaps it's time we put away the old dreams, the old manifestos...and just listened for a while.
Your way will never work, Erik. This can't go on.
I think you've had enough.
I think we've all had enough.
Unnn

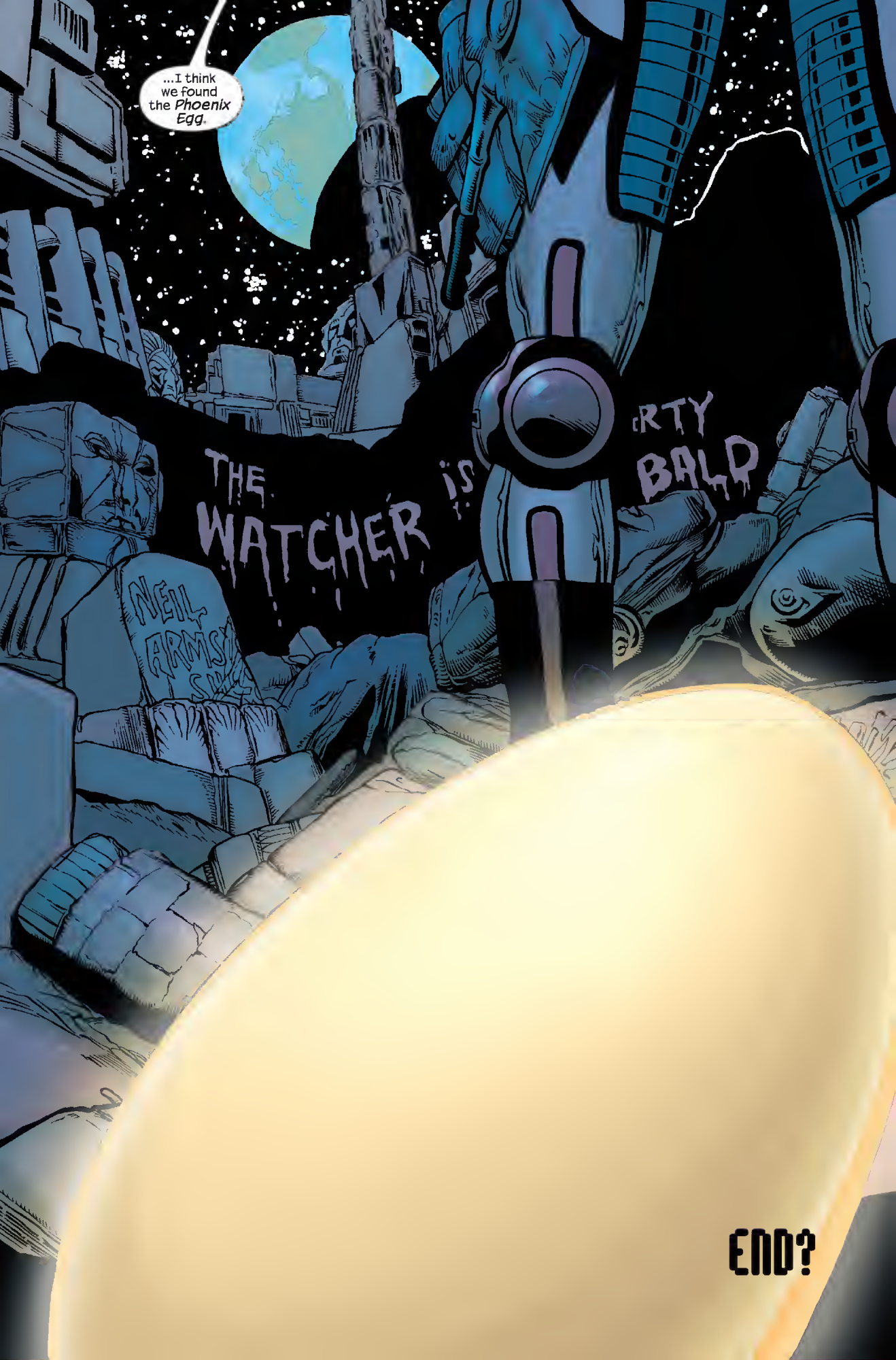

Yes... I...I Have Had Enough.
ENOUGH.
Nggh
What did you do?
Jgg
A lethal electromagnetic pulse.
You're having a planetary-scale stroke, Jean!
All that power I stored had to go somewhere!
I will not be judged by children.
Give me death.
Make me immortal.


NNNAAAAA!


PLINK
PLONK
PLUNK
JEAN!
HOLD ON!
Nnuh no...Scott... no...
See?
Something's gone wrong with the whole universe now.
JEAN!
Somebody get help! Fetch...
...Xorn...


LOGAN'S GONE FERAL!
AAAUUUUUUUU
Jean, I'm so sorry about everything.
I...I didn't ever mean to hurt you.
Shh!
Shh!
The Phoenix understands...
I haven't seen you so alive for a long time Scott...
...my best friend...
...have to go now...
Live, Scott.
Live.
All I ever did was die on you.
JEAN!
NO!
JEAN!


150 YEARS LATER
Corona said she saw it. D'you think it's true?
After all these years... after all this fighting...
Aye, it's true enough.
God help us all...


...I think we found the *Phoenix Egg*.
THE WATCHER IS
RTY
BALD
NEIL ARMS

END?


THE MIGHTY
THOR
DISASSEMBLED
MARVEL
PSR 84 586
OEMING
DiVITO
VILLARI
RAGNAROK
4 OF 6
fgd

RAGNAROK
PART THE FIFTH

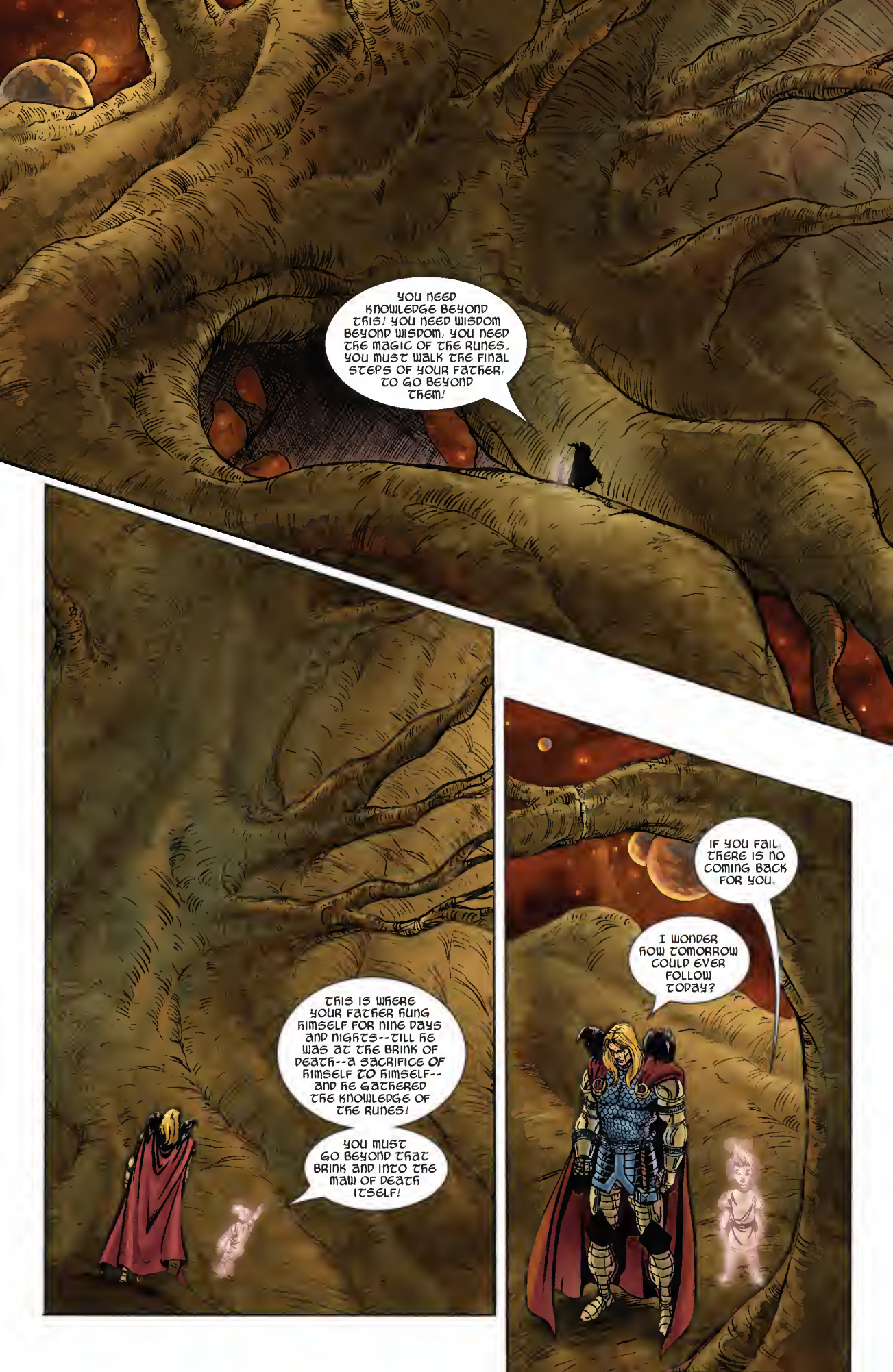






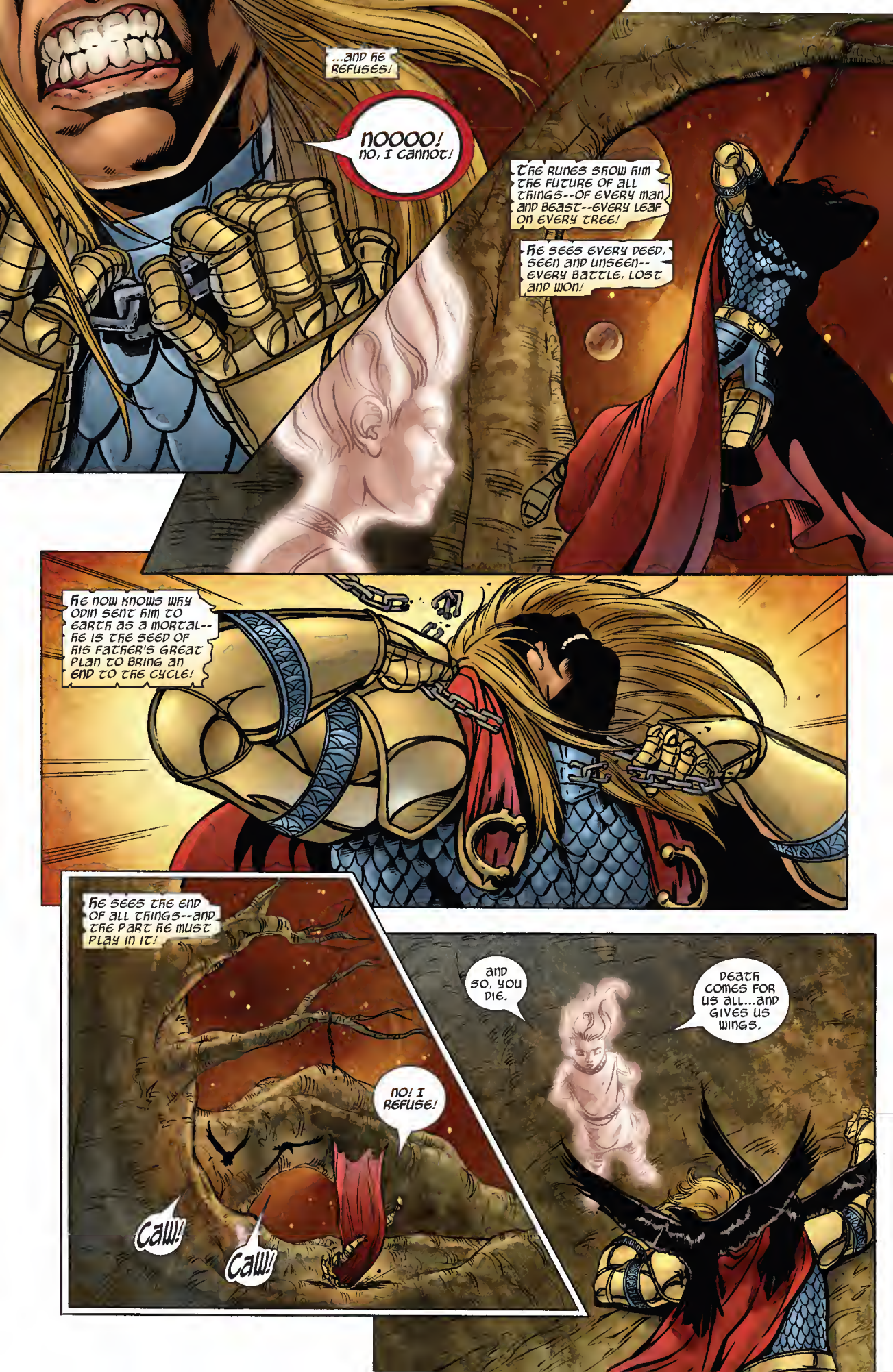




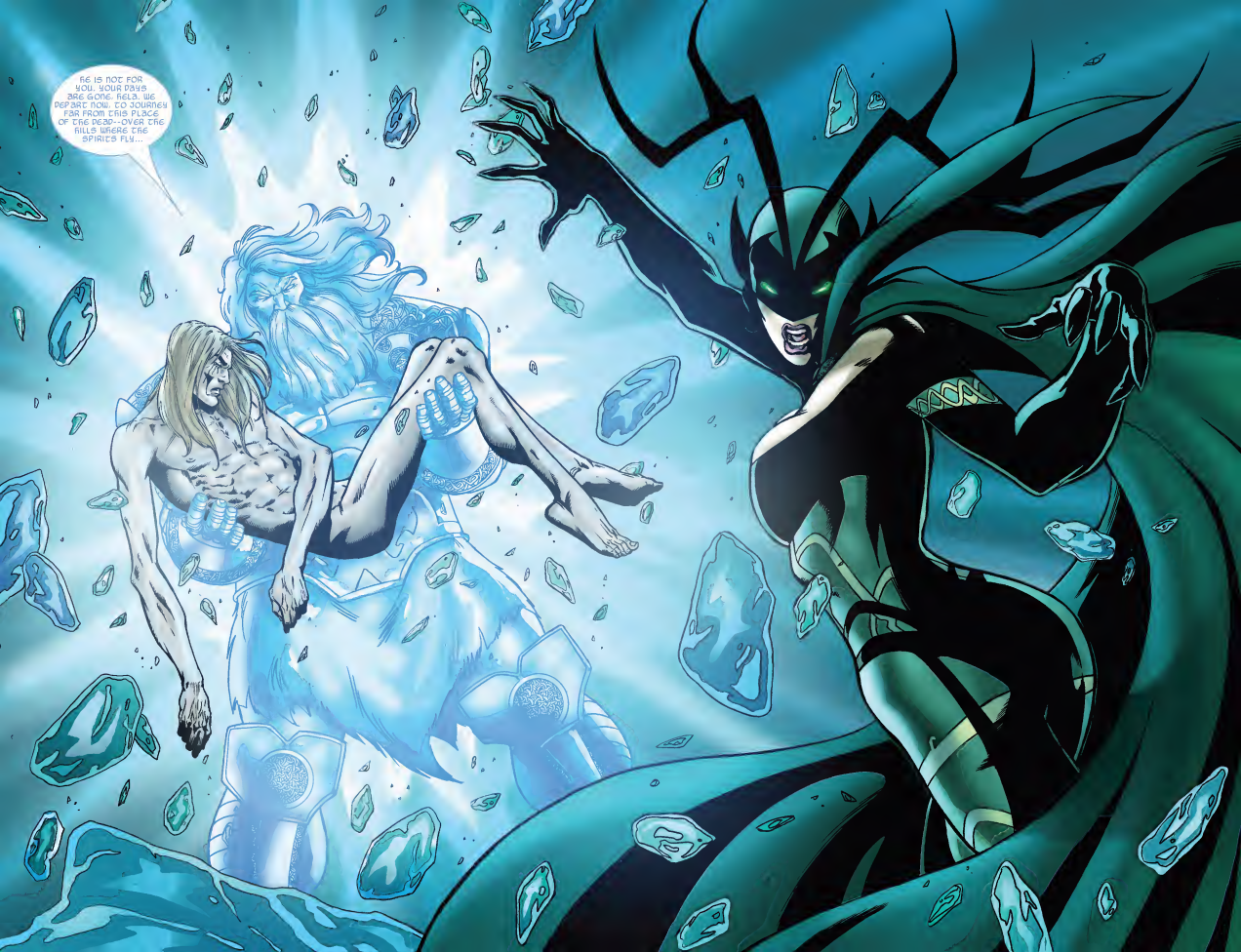

YOU NEED KNOWLEDGE BEYOND THIS! YOU NEED WISDOM BEYOND WISDOM, YOU NEED THE MAGIC OF THE RUNES. YOU MUST WALK THE FINAL STEPS OF YOUR FATHER, TO GO BEYOND THEM!
THIS IS WHERE YOUR FATHER HUNG HIMSELF FOR NINE DAYS AND NIGHTS--TILL HE WAS AT THE BRINK OF DEATH--A SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF TO HIMSELF--AND HE GATHERED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE RUNES!
YOU MUST GO BEYOND THAT BRINK AND INTO THE MAW OF DEATH ITSELF!
IF YOU FAIL THERE IS NO COMING BACK FOR YOU.
I WONDER HOW TOMORROW COULD EVER FOLLOW TODAY?


LIKE HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM, THOR HANGS FROM THE TREE SEEKING HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE.
THE KNOWING OF THE RUNES, MAGIC CALLED SEID BY THE NORSE, COULD DIVINE THE FUTURE AND CAST SPELLS UPON THE NOW!
THOR HANGS--AS HIS FATHER DID BEFORE HIM BRINGING THEM CLOSER IN SPIRIT AND UNDERSTANDING THAN EVER BEFORE.
LIKE A MAN WITH HIS FIRST-BORN, ONLY NOW CAN HE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE BOND BETWEEN FATHER AND SON... OR A KING TO HIS PEOPLE.


The magic of the runes and wisdom from the well of Mimir give Thor the power to know the past-- to control the present-- and guide the future!
Now Thor can see through the veil of time, past the knowing of the gods!
As Donald Blake, Thor learned the science of man. He sees all things animal and mineral--
He sees beyond quantum structure; beyond cosmic architecture...
...and into the nothingness of Gun-Gingap.
He sees the relationships between man and god, child and father, creator and destroyer!
Only after destruction can there be resurrection.
Now he knows what he must do...


...and he refuses!
NOOOO! no, I cannot!
The runes show him the future of all things--of every man and beast--every leaf on every tree!
He sees every deed, seen and unseen--every battle, lost and won!
He now knows why Odin sent him to earth as a mortal--he is the seed of his father's great plan to bring an end to the cycle!
He sees the end of all things--and the part he must play in it!
CAW!
CAW!
NO! I REFUSE!
and so, you die.
Death comes for us all...and gives us wings.

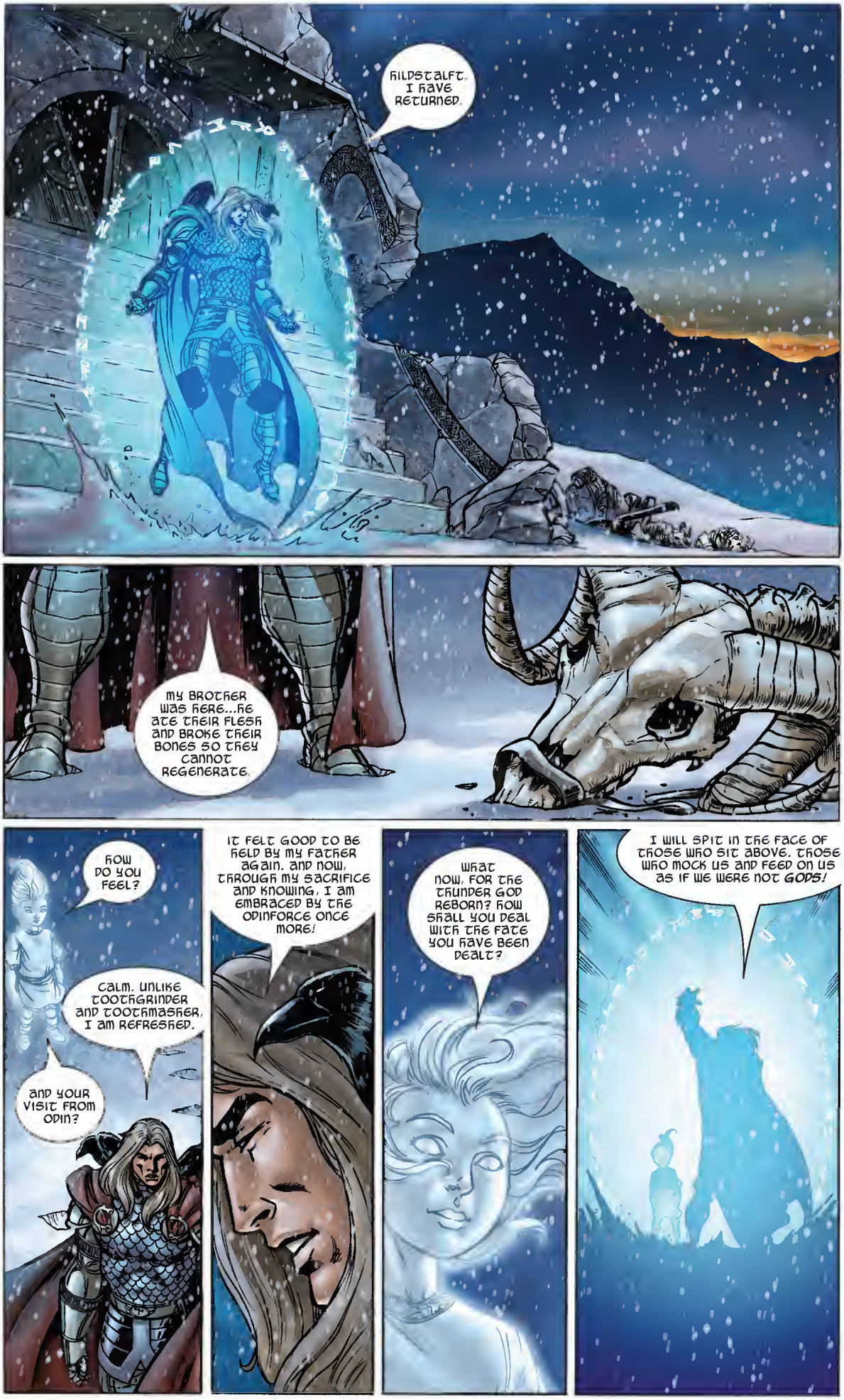

HEL. LAND OF THE SICK, WEAK AND DOOMED.
MINE.
FFF... FATHER... COME TO ME.


HE IS NOT FOR YOU. YOUR DAYS ARE GONE, HELA. WE DEPART NOW, TO JOURNEY FAR FROM THIS PLACE OF THE DEAD--OVER THE HILLS WHERE THE SPIRITS FLY...




"THOSE WHO SIT ABOVE IN SHADOW". YOU ARE A GREAT MYSTERY TO MY PEOPLE. A MYSTERY THAT WAS NEVER EXPLAINED, AND IS RARELY EVEN WHISPERED.
NOW I KNOW YOU--AND I SEE THROUGH YOU!
I NOW HAVE SIGHT BEYOND SIGHT--YOUR SHADOWS NO LONGER CLOUD MY EYES, GREAT GODS OF OLD.
IF YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE, AS YOU CLAIM--WHAT SHALL YOU DO WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE?
YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HAVE NO CONTEXT FOR--AND WE ARE BEYOND YOU. YOU ARE NOTHING MORE TO US THAN...
...THAN A TOY IS TO A CHILD! CHILDREN. THAT IS ALL YOU ARE. YOU WHO SIT AND WATCH, YOU WHO LAUGH AND SMILE AT OUR LIVES AND DEATHS. YOU FEED ON US! I KNOW YOU.
AND WE KNOW YOU...WE KNOW YOUR FATE--YOU ARE NO THREAT TO US.


YOU HAVE SEEN MY KIND LIVE A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE. BUT THOSE TIMES ARE DONE. I HAVE BECOME SOMETHING YOU HAVE NEVER EVEN DREAMED POSSIBLE.
WE KNOW ALL THE OUTCOMES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.
NO! THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT! MY FATHER SAW A WAY TO HIDE ME FROM YOUR MANIPULATIONS. YOU HAVE SEEN THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE OF THE GODS; BUT NOT OF MORTAL MEN. I HAVE LIVED AS ONE OF THEM AND THEIR WAYS FLOW THROUGH ME.
REALLY? THIS COULD BE INTERESTING.
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
FAREWELL!


HILDSTALFT. I HAVE RETURNED.
MY BROTHER WAS HERE...HE ATE THEIR FLESH AND BROKE THEIR BONES SO THEY CANNOT REGENERATE.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
CALM. UNLIKE TOOTHGRINDER AND TOOTHMASHER, I AM REFRESHED.
AND YOUR VISIT FROM ODIN?
IT FELT GOOD TO BE HELD BY MY FATHER AGAIN. AND NOW, THROUGH MY SACRIFICE AND KNOWING, I AM EMBRACED BY THE ODINFORCE ONCE MORE!
WHAT NOW, FOR THE THUNDER GOD REBORN? HOW SHALL YOU DEAL WITH THE FATE YOU HAVE BEEN DEALT?
I WILL SPIT IN THE FACE OF THOSE WHO SIT ABOVE. THOSE WHO MOCK US AND FEED ON US AS IF WE WERE NOT GODS!


VALHALLA HAS BEEN REBUILT IN LOKI'S IMAGE. THE FOOL THINKS HE IS LORD OF THE GODS. MY PEOPLE STILL STAND IN VANAHEIM, THEY AWAIT THE FINAL BATTLE. THEY WILL NOT FOLD.
YET, IF THIS IS A CYCLE, HOW COULD THEY EVER HAVE A FINAL BATTLE?
HAHAHAHAHAHAH...
LONG HAVE I BEEN CONTROLLING YOUR ENEMIES, THROUGH SWEET WORDS OR SHARP SPELLS, REVIVING THEM FROM OBLIVION OR FAR-OFF WORLDS!
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM


YOU FOUND HIDDEN STRENGTH TO FELL DUROK WITHOUT YOUR HAMMER - CAN YOU REPEAT THAT DEED WITH MANGOG?!
THA-DOOOM!!
THA-DOOOM!!
THA-DOOOM!!
RAAAA!
I SEE YOUR MAGIC FAILS YOU MANGOG. SUCH IS THE PRICE TO PAY UNDER LOKI. HIS POWER HAS SURELY GROWN
RRRAAAAAGHH!


WELL, I KNOW A SPELL TO CATCH A WITCH AND TURN HER INTO THE WIND...AND I KNOW A SPELL TO BOTTLE THIS BEING AND TO EMPTY THIS BOTTLE AS WELL.
THRKRACK!
WHAT SPELLS DOES MY STRONG-ARMED BROTHER SPEAK OF? WHAT ARE THESE SPELLS THAT I DO NOT KNOW? I WHO HAVE RAISED SURTUR FROM BEYOND--I WHO HAVE COMMANDED SUCH BEASTS AS DUROK AND SYPHONED THE MAGICS OF MANGOG--I WHO HAVE TOPPLED THE WALLS OF ASGARD AND REBUILT THEM! WHAT ARE THESE SPELLS?
BE AT PEACE, BEAST.
BROTHER! LOKI, SHOW YOURSELF! WE SHALL SETTLE YOUR GRUDGE. NOW!


YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE.
RUNES! WHERE DID YOU LEARN THE MAGIC OF THE RUNES? I'M SHOCKED, THUNDERHEAD, SHOCKED...AND PROUD. YOU'LL BE LEARNING TO READ NEXT?
I KNOW NOW YOUR SECRETS AND PITY YOU FOR THEM. I PITY THE POWER THAT NOW COMPELS YOU...
CAN'T ANYONE JUST STAY DEAD?! SO, HERE YOU ARE BACK FROM THE BEYOND ONCE AGAIN. WELL BROTHER, I'VE GROWN SINCE THEN--GROWN LIKE YGGDRASIL ITSELF--I *AM* ASGARD NOW!
SO, WHAT NOW? BELLY CRY--ASK WHY I'VE DONE SUCH AND SUCH? WAH, WAH, WAH, THUNDER GOD.
NO QUESTIONS, LOKI. I KNOW THE DARKEST CREVICES OF YOUR OWN MIND, I KNOW THINGS ABOUT YOU THAT EVEN YOU DO NOT KNOW. I SEE HOW YOUR PAIN CONTROLS YOU.
ODIN COMES TO JUTTENHEIM, LAND OF THE GIANTS--*YOUR* PEOPLE--AND HE KILLS *YOUR* FATHER WITH MJOLNIR. THEN HE *ADOPTS* YOU, OUT OF OBLIGATION. YOUR HATE FOR OUR FATHER WAS PASSED TO ME THE DAY I RECEIVED MJOLNIR.
I...


OH, PLEASE! YOU COME HERE TO DESTROY WHAT I HAVE REBUILT! I DO NOT SEEK TO DESTROY ASGARD, BUT TO RULE IT--TO UNIFY IT! WHEN I DESTROY THOSE AT VANAHEIM, MY RULE WILL BE COMPLETE AND THINGS SET RIGHT!
YOU CANNOT STAND AGAINST ME.
I CAN, AND WILL--AGAINST YOU--AND YOUR ARMY.
MY ARMY? OH, YOU THINK YOU KNOW MY ARMY, DO YOU? YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
SNAP

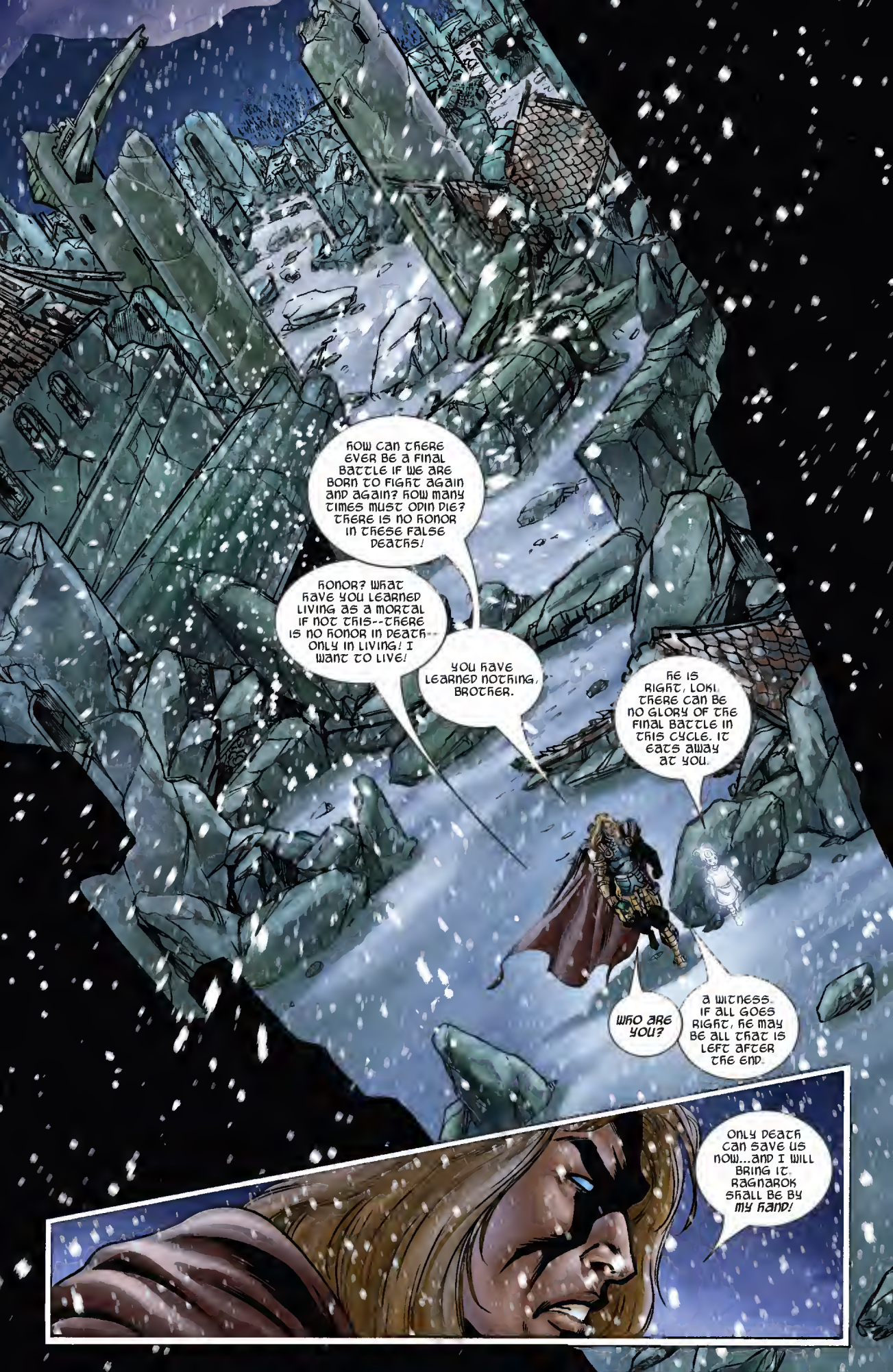

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS DIFFICULT, AREN'T YOU?
IMPOSSIBLE.




H-HOW? THE MAGIC OF RUNES? THE ODINFORCE?
ONLY AFTER YOU'VE *LOST* EVERYTHING... CAN YOU *DO* ANYTHING.
W-WHY? I REBUILT OUR FATHER'S HOME-- ASGARD. V-VALHALLA IS MINE! I NEVER WANTED IT DESTROYED... I SAW WHAT IT COULD BE--*MINE!* *WHY?!?!*
I HAVE WALKED THE SAME PATH AS ODIN. I HAVE DESTROYED MYSELF AND BEEN REBORN. I KNOW THE UNKNOWABLE, I SEE THE UNSEEN.
I KNOW WHY AND HOW YOU'VE DONE THESE EVIL DEEDS, AND IT MATTERS NOT. WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT* IS ALL THAT MATTERS.


and what is that?
you must be *punished*. you have taken the lives of many brave men. so your punishment shall be to become less than a man.
no... please... no...
gggg!


What have you done? My body! I need my body!
No longer, brother. You shall stay with me. We shall journey to the end together.
Stunning. Even I can no longer see what is in your heart, Thunder God. Your father's gift of humanity, those lessons learned from Blake shield your thoughts from the Odinpower. I think I am... excited?
The cycle of death and renewal gave *life* to those who sit in shadow. They *fed* on our energy. They sucked life from us--those who lived through it again and again. They made our existence hollow, each sacrifice and each daring deed less significant as they were repeated in an endless cycle.
Just as my sacrifice of *one* eye was meaningless and I could not *hover* on the twilight of death as it had been done before...I had to *die*-- to go into death itself!
The cycle must end!
and I shall end it.
Yes...I am excited!
What are you talking about? Are you mad?!


HOW CAN THERE EVER BE A FINAL BATTLE IF WE ARE BORN TO FIGHT AGAIN AND AGAIN? HOW MANY TIMES MUST ODIN DIE? THERE IS NO HONOR IN THESE FALSE DEATHS!
HONOR? WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED LIVING AS A MORTAL IF NOT THIS--THERE IS NO HONOR IN DEATH--ONLY IN LIVING! I WANT TO LIVE!
YOU HAVE LEARNED NOTHING, BROTHER.
HE IS RIGHT, LOKI. THERE CAN BE NO GLORY OF THE FINAL BATTLE IN THIS CYCLE. IT EATS AWAY AT YOU.
WHO ARE YOU?
A WITNESS. IF ALL GOES RIGHT, HE MAY BE ALL THAT IS LEFT AFTER THE END.
ONLY DEATH CAN SAVE US NOW...AND I WILL BRING IT. RAGNAROK SHALL BE BY *MY* HAND!



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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents...

PREVIOUSLY

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS

DISASSEMBLED

"CHAOS" PART TWO OF FOUR



It is the worst day in Avengers history. The return of the believed dead Jack of Hearts ends in his untimely self-detonation, taking half of Avengers mansion and Scott Lang, aka Ant-Man, with him.

Before the Avengers can react to this tragedy, long-time member the Vision crashes a quinjet into the mansion, unleashing a small horde of unstoppable Ultron robots on the remaining members. A gruesome fight ensues that ends with She-Hulk losing control of herself, hurting many members of the team, and going on a wild rampage.

Across town, Iron Man is addressing the United Nations in his capacity as U.S. Secretary of Defense, when he unexpectedly finds himself drunk and out of control. His vicious public display in front of the united world leaders leaves him devastated and humiliated.

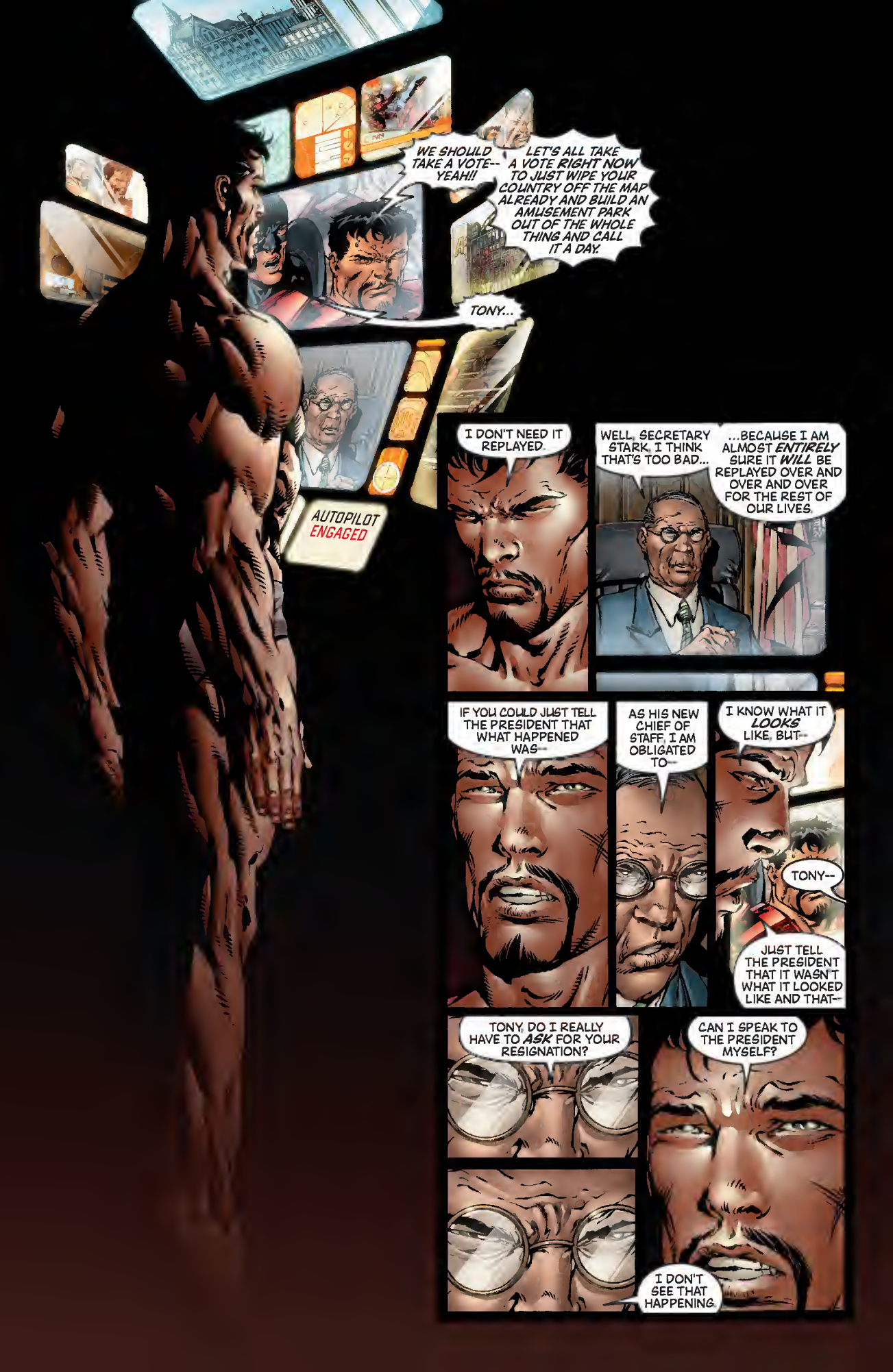
Now the Avengers call has gone out. Code white: the highest level emergency.

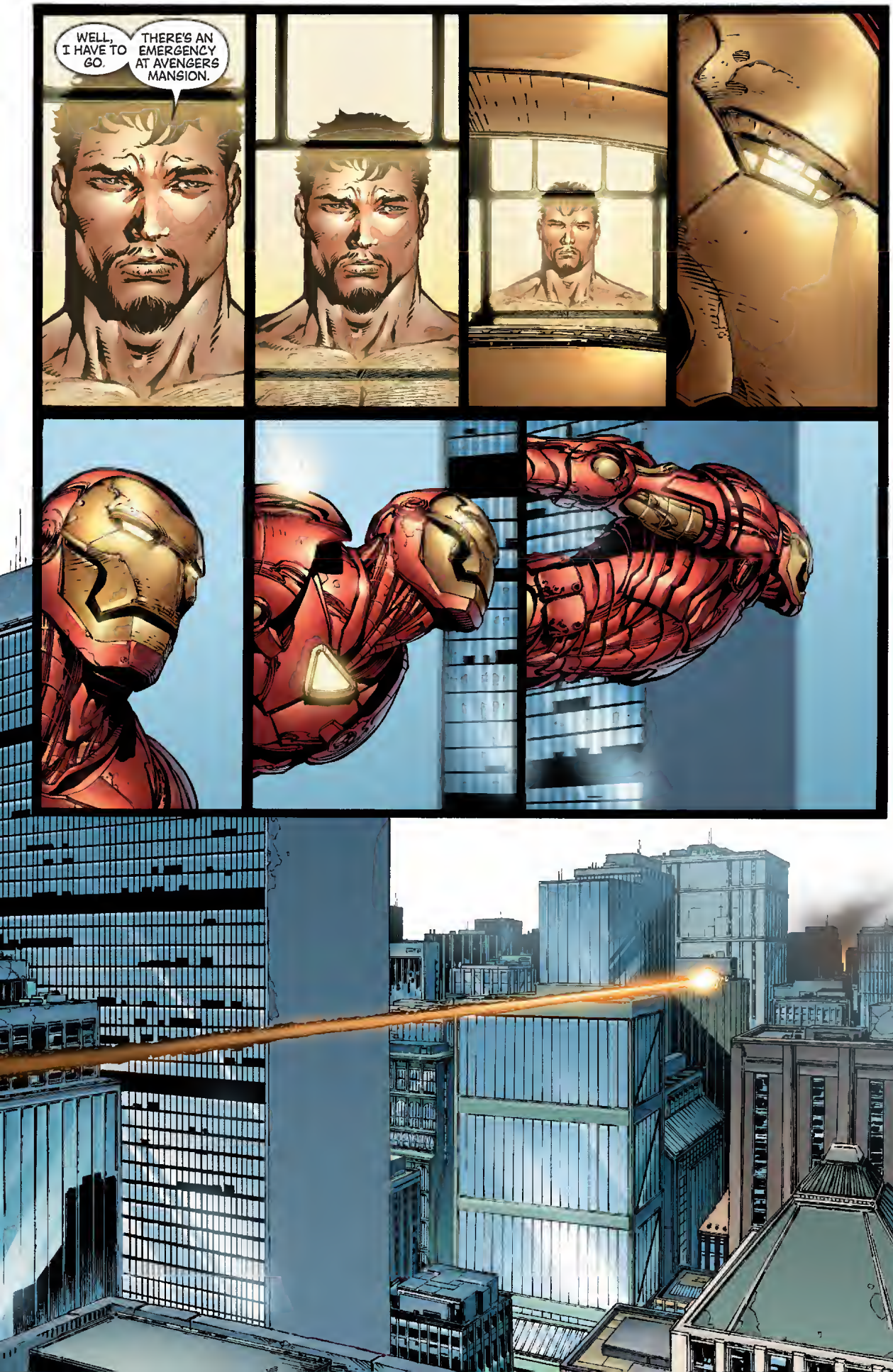
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Brian Michael Bendis	David Finch	Danny Miki	Frank D'Armata	RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne

Assistant Editors	Associate Editor	Editor	Editor in Chief	Publisher
Nicole Wiley & Molly Lazer	Andy Schmidt	Tom Brevoort	Joe Quesada	Dan Buckley

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WE SHOULD TAKE A VOTE-- YEAH!!
LET'S ALL TAKE A VOTE RIGHT NOW TO JUST WIPE YOUR COUNTRY OFF THE MAP ALREADY AND BUILD AN AMUSEMENT PARK OUT OF THE WHOLE THING AND CALL IT A DAY.
TONY...
AUTOPILOT ENGAGED
I DON'T NEED IT REPLAYED.
WELL, SECRETARY STARK, I THINK THAT'S TOO BAD...
...BECAUSE I AM ALMOST ENTIRELY SURE IT WILL BE REPLAYED OVER AND OVER AND OVER FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.
IF YOU COULD JUST TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT WHAT HAPPENED WAS--
AS HIS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF, I AM OBLIGATED TO--
I KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, BUT--
TONY--
JUST TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT IT WASN'T WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE AND THAT--
TONY, DO I REALLY HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR RESIGNATION?
CAN I SPEAK TO THE PRESIDENT MYSELF?
I DON'T SEE THAT HAPPENING.


WELL, I HAVE TO GO.
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY AT AVENGERS MANSION.


HUUAAARRGGH!!
NAGH!
FOOM
THIS IS SPECIAL AGENT MAHER AT AVENGERS MANSION!!
WE HAVE A REAL PROBLEM DOWN HERE!
ARRGGHH!
AND IF ANYONE IS READING THIS, PLEASE SEND THE HULKBUSTER INITIATIVE INTO--
WHOAH!
JENNIFER, PLEASEAGH!
FUMP

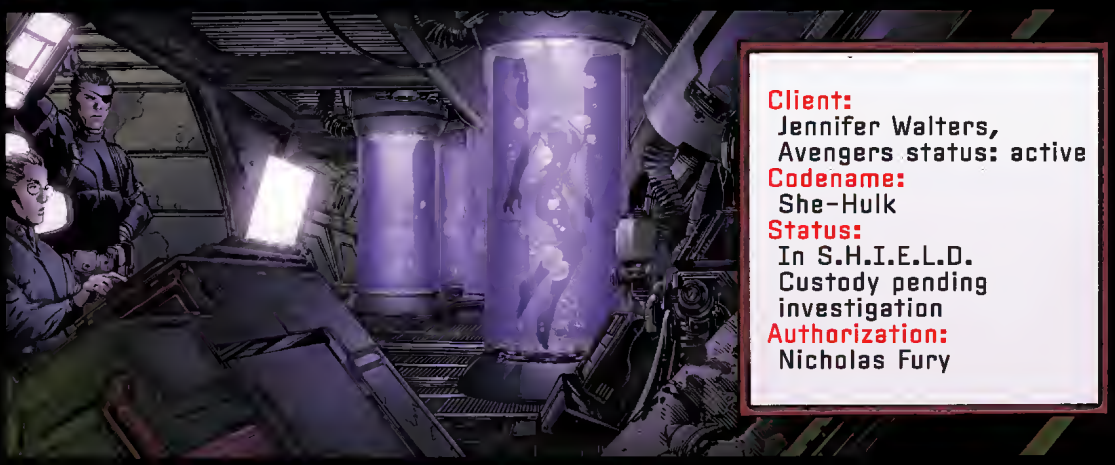

AARRGGHHH!
JENNIFER, IT'S CLINT, COME ON! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
PLEASE, JUST GRAB A HOLD OF--
AAARRGGHHH!
OH NO...
AARRGGHH!


WHOOOFM
WELL, I TOOK NO PRIDE IN THAT...
TONY!!
CAP IS TRAPPED UNDER A TRUCK!!
OH MY LORD--
I KNOW!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?!
JUST GET HIM OUT FROM--
IT TAKES TWO SECONDS FOR THE ARMOR TO MAGNETIZE.
OH NO...
AGH...
CAP?
CAP, ARE YOU OK?
IS SHE DOWN?
YES. WHAT HAPPENED HERE? DID SHE-HULK DO ALL OF THIS?
NO. I-- I DON'T KNOW.
GUYS, WE HAVE ANOTHER MAN DOWN. CAPTAIN BRITAIN IS OUT.
CAP! I HAVE THE WASP. SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE.
I--I SHOULDN'T HAVE MOVED HER, BUT I WAS AFRAID SOMEONE WOULD STEP ON HER.
SAM, TAKE HER TO THE--
HOSPITAL. YEAH, I'M ON MY WAY.
JUST MAKING SURE THERE WASN'T SOMETHING WE COULD DO FOR...
...HER HERE.


JAN...?
HANK, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE HER TO THE EMERGENCY--
--ROOM.
HOLD HER STEADY, SAM.
WE'LL BE THERE IN A SECOND.

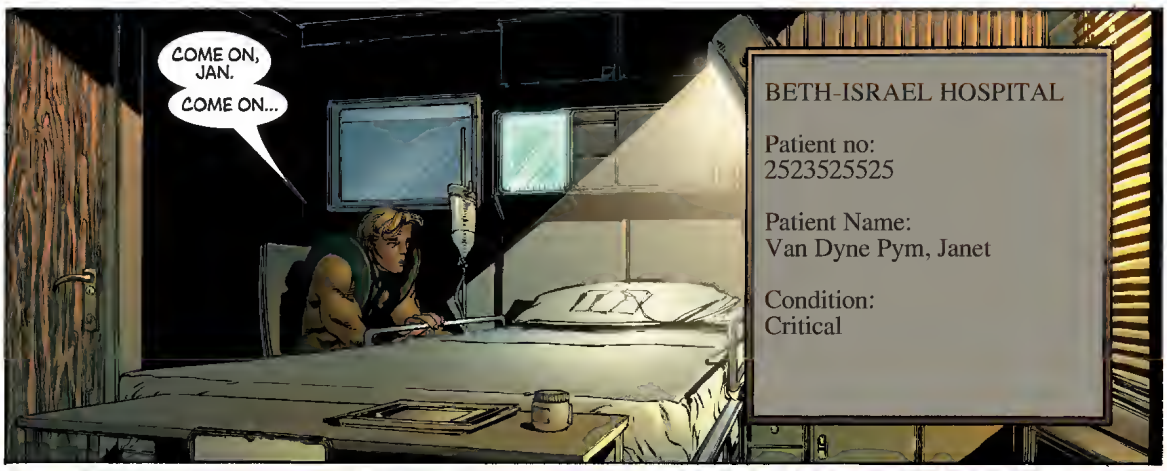

BETH-ISRAEL HOSPITAL
RRRR!
THUMP
THAT REALLY HURT.
SORRY, CAPTAIN.
YOU PULLED IT OUT OF ITS SOCKET. THERE'S NO NICE WAY THAT HAPPENS AND THERE'S NO NICE WAY TO PUT IT BACK.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE IT EASY FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.
DON'T THINK *THAT* WILL HAPPEN.
WELL, I HAVE SOME OF YOUR TEAMMATES TO ATTEND TO, SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
HOW *ARE* THE OTHERS?


ETH-ISRAEL HOSPI
Patient ID No.
4758686
Name:
Kelsey Leigh
Condition:
Critical.


Client:
Jennifer Walters,
Avengers status: active
Codename:
She-Hulk
Status:
In S.H.I.E.L.D.
Custody pending
investigation
Authorization:
Nicholas Fury

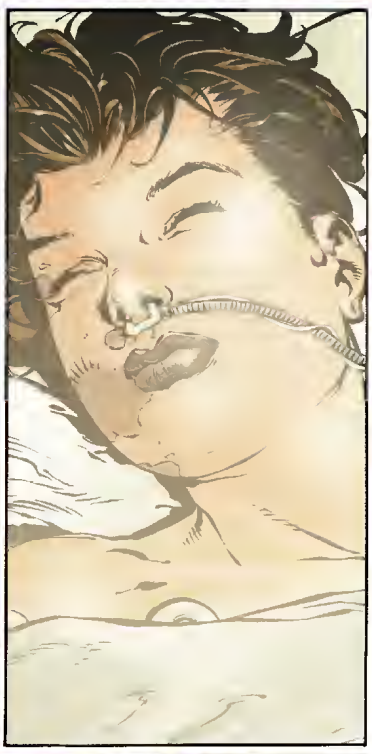

S.H.I.E.L.D. Morgue: 45567
14
15
SCOTT LANG
COD: SPONTANEOUS
DISINTEGRATION/
INVESTIGATION
PENDING

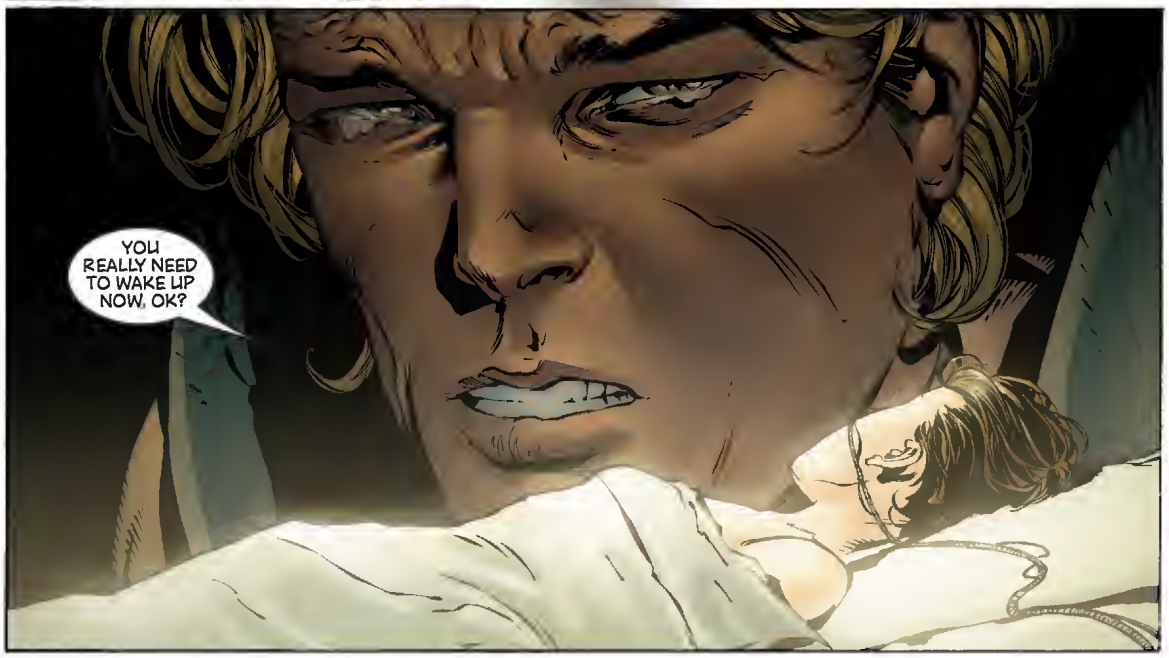

VISION PROJECT.
RETURN TO STARK
ENTERPRISES PENDING
CLEARANCE AND
AUTHORIZATION.
PACKAGE 1 OF 2


COME ON, JAN.
COME ON...
BETH-ISRAEL HOSPITAL
Patient no:
2523525525
Patient Name:
Van Dyne Pym, Janet
Condition:
Critical


JANET, IT'S SO HARD FOR THE DOCTORS TO WORK ON YOU WHEN YOU'RE AT THIS LITTLE WASP SIZE.
WHAT BOTHERS ME HERE IS WHEN YOU'VE GOTTEN HURT IN THE *PAST*...
...YOU WOULD AUTOMATICALLY REVERT TO FULL SIZE...
AND THE FACT THAT, *THIS* TIME, YOU *HAVEN'T*...
I WON'T LIE TO YOU...YOU'RE SCARING ME.


I HAVE THEM PULLING YOUR MEDICAL FILES OFF MY SERVER AT HOME, AND THEY HAVE X-RAYS AND CAT SCANS...
SO, *HOPEFULLY*, WE'LL FIND *SOMETHING* BUT...

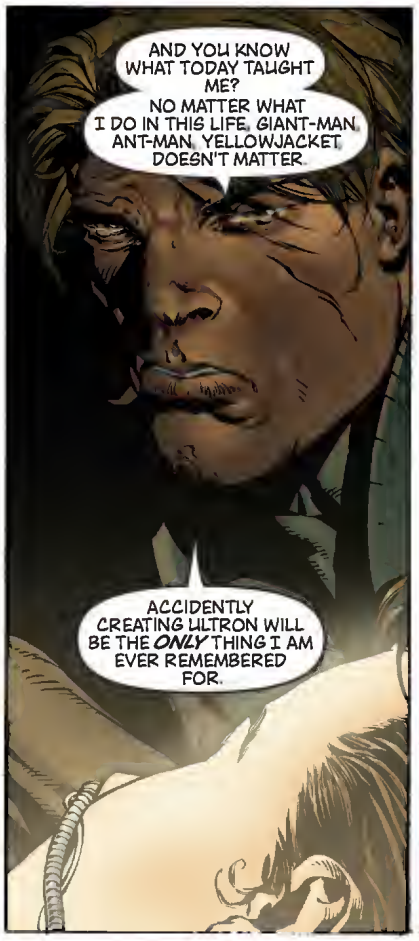



YOU REALLY NEED TO WAKE UP NOW, OK?


AND BELIEVE ME, NO ONE IS MORE SURPRISED TO FIND MYSELF THIS UPSET ABOUT YOU... THAN ME.
I MEAN, THE ONLY THING YOU WERE WORSE AT THAN BEING A WIFE WAS BEING AN EX-WIFE.
YOU'VE BEEN BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO MAKE MY LIFE MISERABLE FOR A GOOD LONG WHILE NOW...
...AND I HAVE REALLY RESENTED YOU FOR IT.


BUT NOW. NOW. HERE... ALL OF A SUDDEN I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT.
JUST OPEN YOUR...




AND YOU KNOW WHAT TODAY TAUGHT ME?
NO MATTER WHAT I DO IN THIS LIFE, GIANT-MAN, ANT-MAN, YELLOWJACKET, DOESN'T MATTER.
ACCIDENTLY CREATING ULTRON WILL BE THE ONLY THING I AM EVER REMEMBERED FOR.


WHAT I HAVE DONE TO THIS TEAM?

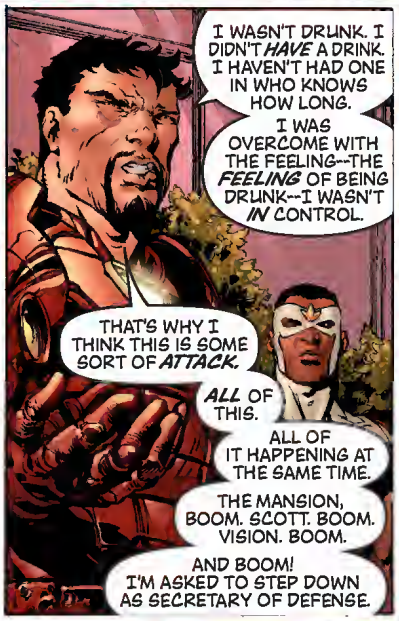

THIS--THIS ISN'T THE LIFE I WANT.
THIS ISN'T HOW I WANTED US TO END UP.

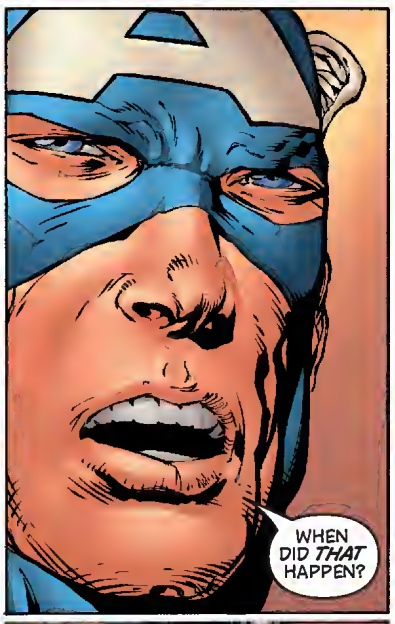

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
YEAH, KINDA CAUGHT ON TO THAT MY--
I'M ASKING BY WHO.
WHO? WE KNOW WHO.
AND ACTUALLY, I THINK THAT THIS WAS JUST A BAD DAY THAT ISN'T OVER.
A BAD DAY?
YEAH, A REALLY BAD DAY!
WE'RE--I'M NOT BEING BRAGGY--BUT WE ARE EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUALS. WE ARE.
BUT--
WE DON'T HAVE GOOD AND BAD DAYS. WE HAVE EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD DAYS AND WE HAVE EXTRAORDINARILY BAD DAYS. THIS WAS--
YOU ARE BEING VERY--
THIS WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY BAD DAY.
IT WAS A LOT MORE THAN THAT.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE? WE HAD IT COMING.
THIS AIN'T GOING TO BE THE MOST POPULAR THING I EVER SAY, BUT, YEAH, WE HAD IT COMING.
WE'RE ALL ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM. WE'RE ALL ABOUT WHATEVER IS IN FRONT OF US THAT SECOND, AND THEN WE'RE ON TO THE NEXT THING.
WE THINK JACK OF HEARTS IS DEAD. WE LEAVE HIM UP THERE IN SPACE. WHAT DO WE KNOW, RIGHT?
BECAUSE NOW WE GOT NAMOR TO DEAL WITH...OR THIS OR THAT.
BUT GUESS WHAT? JACK ISN'T DEAD. HE COMES BACK AND HE EXPLODES ON US JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS FEARED HE WOULD...
NOW SCOTT'S DEAD... WHICH MY BRAIN CAN'T EVEN PROCESS YET.
WE PUT OUT THE CODE WHITE. OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY CALL.
AND THE VISION SHOWS UP AND LAUNCHES AN ULTRON ATTACK.
AND I AM SAYING THAT ALL OF THIS HAPPENING IN SUCH A SMALL AMOUNT OF TIME IS NOT A "BAD DAY." IT'S--
YEAH, BUT THIS ULTRON ROBOT, THIS THING IS YOUR WORST ENEMY.
SO LET'S SAY...WHAT? THAT YEARS AGO--
--YEARS AGO HE COULD HAVE IMPLANTED SOME, I DON'T KNOW, SOME CODE, OR A CHIP OR WHATEVER...


A COMMAND.
A *COMMAND* THAT SAID WHENEVER THE AVENGERS HIT THE CODE WHITE--
--WHENEVER WE'RE AT OUR *WORST* MOMENT--
--LAUNCH THIS PRE-PROGRAMMED ATTACK.
IT'S KIND OF GENIUS, REALLY.
I MEAN, IT WORKED.
I THINK-- YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD GUESS.
HE'S DONE WORSE TO US!
WE DON'T KNOW *HOW* TO KILL ULTRON. *REALLY* KILL HIM.
HE'S A.I., RIGHT? WE DON'T KNOW *HOW* HE SUSTAINS LIFE AS AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
NO, *YOU* DON'T. I DO.
HE COULD BE ALIVE IN YOUR ARMOR FOR ALL YOU KNOW.
AND SHE-HULK?
WELL, YOU GUYS KEEP PUTTING HULKS ON THE TEAM AND YOU'RE ALL *SHOCKED* WHEN IT BACKFIRES.
I'M TELLING YOU-- LISTEN-- I'M NOT *HAPPY* ABOUT ANY OF THIS...
...BUT I'M SAYING, THE WAY WE LIVE--WE SORT OF HAD A DAY LIKE THIS COMING.
WELL, THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THIS--
MORE?
JUST LISTEN--
I WAS ADDRESSING THE U.N. EARLIER AND ALL OF A--
HANK, JUST CALM--
DID YOU TELL THEM?!
TELL THEM, TONY! TELL THEM WHAT YOU DID!

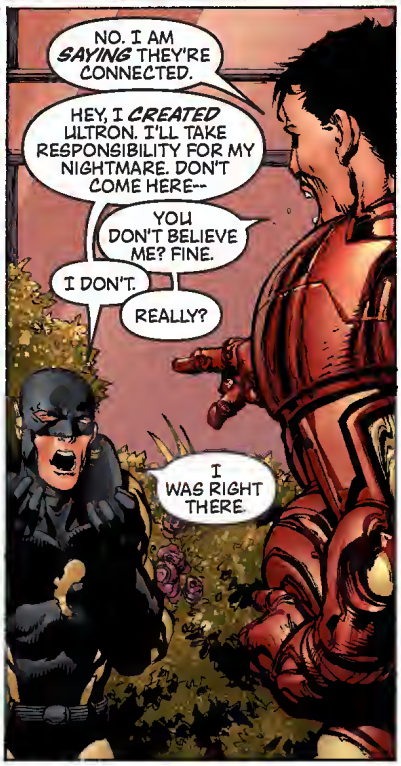

WHAT DID YOU--?
HE WAS DRUNK!
HE GOT UP IN FRONT OF THE U.N. DRUNK!
HE GOT ALL CRAZY AND HE THREATENED TO KILL THE LATVERIAN AMBASSADOR IN FRONT OF THE GATHERED WORLD LEADERS.
LISTEN, JUST--
IT WAS-- IT WAS A DISASTER.
I WASN'T DRUNK!!


SAY IT AGAIN, TONY!!
I WAS THERE!!


I WASN'T DRUNK. I DIDN'T HAVE A DRINK. I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN WHO KNOWS HOW LONG.
I WAS OVERCOME WITH THE FEELING--THE FEELING OF BEING DRUNK--I WASN'T IN CONTROL.
THAT'S WHY I THINK THIS IS SOME SORT OF ATTACK.
ALL OF THIS.
ALL OF IT HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME.
THE MANSION, BOOM. SCOTT. BOOM. VISION. BOOM.
AND BOOM! I'M ASKED TO STEP DOWN AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.


WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?


AT THE EXACT SAME TIME AS YOU WERE DEALING WITH ALL OF THIS. SEE? YOU SEE? ALL OF THIS.
OH MAN...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY USING THIS, THIS NIGHTMARE, TO WHITEWASH WHAT YOU DID TODAY? YOU WOULD DO THAT?


NO. I AM SAYING THEY'RE CONNECTED.
HEY, I CREATED ULTRON. I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY NIGHTMARE. DON'T COME HERE--
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? FINE.
I DON'T.
REALLY?
I WAS RIGHT THERE.


IS THAT IT?
YOU ALL DON'T BELIEVE ME.

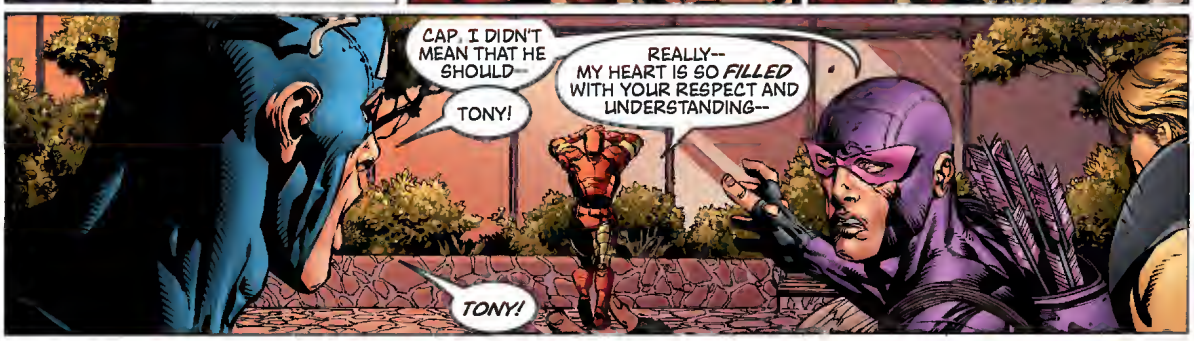



I BELIEVE YOU.
MAN SAYS WHAT THE MAN SAYS. I BELIEVE YOU.
WELL...


MY DAD WAS AN ALCOHOLIC. I TOLD YOU THIS.
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO HEAR YOU SAY THESE THINGS WITHOUT HEARING THE CRAP *HE* USED TO SAY.
AND YOU'RE KIND OF WOBBLY *NOW*, MAN. I THOUGHT IT WAS FROM ALL THE DRAMA, BUT--


WELL, THAT'S JUST *GREAT.*


I'M NOT JUDGING. I'M SAYING THAT THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH TOGETHER--
I CANNOT *TELL* YOU HOW HAPPY I AM THAT I SPENT OVER HALF OF MY PERSONAL FORTUNE FINANCIALLY *SUPPORTING* THE AVENGERS--
--SO THAT SUPPORT CAN COME BACK TO ME LIKE *THIS.*


CAP, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT HE SHOULD--
TONY!
REALLY-- MY HEART IS SO *FILLED* WITH YOUR RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING--
TONY!


THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.
SHOULD I GO AFTER HIM?
GIVE HIM A MINUTE. HE'LL GET IT TOGETHER.
CAN'T FLY THAT FAST ANYHOW.
I DIDN'T MEAN HE SHOULD BAIL. HE ASKED ME A QUESTION. I GAVE HIM AN ANSWER.
WHAT DID YOU *THINK* HE WAS GOING TO DO?
I BELIEVE TONY.
WELL, THAT'S YOU.
HE *DID* SEEM SHAKY AND SWEATY. HE'S NOT A SHAKY-SWEATY GUY.
CAP, YOU DIDN'T SEE WHAT I SAW TODAY. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE NEWS.
THAT BAD?
IT'S ALL OVER THE TV. LOOK, CAN YOU SEE IT FROM HERE?


THE U.N. IS HAVING AN EMERGENCY MEETING *RIGHT NOW* AND YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THE SUBJECT IS.
THEY'RE GOING TO *BAIL* ON US?
UH-OH.
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON AT THE MANSION.
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
I THOUGHT THE MANSION WAS IN S.H.I.E.L.D. LOCKDOWN.
IT IS.
I'LL MEET YOU THERE.
I AM SO NOT IN THE MOOD FOR ANY MORE OF THIS.
I'M STAYING WITH JANET.
DO WHAT YOU THINK YOU MUST.
YOU SURE WE SHOULD PARK THE QUINJET ACROSS THE STREET LIKE THIS? IN THE PARK?
DID YOU SEE WHAT I SAW?
THE MANSION'S A CRIME SCENE.
THIS WILL HAVE TO DO.
I SAW IT.
WERE YOU READY FOR THIS?




FINAL ISSUE!
THE MIGHTY
THOR
DISASSEMBLED
MARVEL
PSR 85 587
OEMING
DiVITO
VILLARI
RAGNAROK
CONCLUSION

RAGNAROK

Part The Last








I HAD THOUGHT THE OLDEST OF RACES WOULD BE NOBLE. I PROMISED SURTUR THIS LAND AFTER REVIVING HIM FROM BEYOND...IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS FORGING SKILLS. NOW HE RAMS OUT FARMERS TO RID THE LAND OF THE GIANTS.
LOOK AT THEM. GIVE THEM A LITTLE POWER AND THEY GO CRAZY. REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW--EH, BROTHER?
FIRE AND ICE CLASH. BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER. FATHER AGAINST SON...TRULY, THIS IS THE END.
KRATHOOM!!


Blast.
Maybe you shouldn't 'ave done that.
THIS IS A FINE HAMMER. BUT YOU CAN ONLY KNOW ITS TRUE WORTH WHEN YOU HAVE FELT IT YOURSELF.
FOOM!!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!


OOOOOOOOOM!!
THOR, GOD OF THUNDER AND CHILD OF MY ENEMY, HAS COME TO FACE ME! AS I COMPLETE THIS FINAL HAMMER, I SEAL YOUR FATE. YOU WILL TASTE THE POWER OF SURTUR! YOU WILL FALL BEFORE ME AS YOUR FATHER SHOULD HAVE.
THOOM!
ARGH!
FFSSSS!!!
THIS HAMMER IS SEALED TO YOUR FLESH NOW, FIRE-DEMON--DEAL DEATH WITH IT. GO! DESTROY!
I SEE LOKI HAS MET A FITTING END. I OWE HIM MY NEW LIFE, BUT HE DOES NOT KNOW HONOR AS YOU DO. WHAT OF ME, THUNDER GOD? NOW THAT I HAVE RETURNED FROM OBLIVION--WHAT BATTLE SHALL WE WAGE?


SHALL WE CRUSH THE WORLD AS WE FIGHT? OR SHALL WE SMITE THE STARS?
THERE WILL BE NO BATTLE, FIRE GIANT, ONLY RESTITUTION.
WHAT? NO BATTLE? HE KILLED ODIN! YOU ARE WEAKER THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE! HE KILLED OUR FATHER, AND YOU DON'T WANT REVENGE?
SPEAK NOT, FOUL LOKI, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SET HIM FREE AND MADE A DEAL WITH HIM. I WOULD TOSS YOU INTO A VOLCANO IF I DIDN'T THINK YOUR COLD SOUL WOULD FREEZE IT OVER.
REFORGE MY HAMMER, SURTUR. MAKE MJOLNIR WHOLE AGAIN. THIS IS ALL I ASK.
WHAT?
YOU COULD DO THAT YOURSELF, THOR. WHY COME HERE?
IT IS ONLY FITTING. HE WHO DESTROYED MY FATHER, HE WHO IS THE GREATEST ENEMY OF THE GODS, WILL RESTORE OUR GREATEST WEAPON USING THE MOLD THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE END OF TIMES...AND THE BEGINNING OF THIS JOURNEY.
VERY GOOD. YOU DO HAVE THE WISDOM OF ODIN.


IF I RESTORE MJOLNIR, WOULD YOU NOT STRIKE ME DOWN WITH IT?
NO. HOW COULD I IF IT IS IN YOUR HANDS? YOU HAVE MY WORD AS LORD OF ASGARD THAT I MYSELF WILL BLAST A TRAIL FOR YOU TO VALHALLA AND VANAHEIM TO WHICH YOU CAN LAY WASTE!
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I'M THE EVIL ONE, THOR, AND EVEN I WANTED ONLY TO CONTROL OUR WORLD, NOT DESTROY IT! FOR THE LOVE OF OUR FATHER, DON'T DO THIS! SURTUR WILL LAY ALL TO WASTE, THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT!
NOTHING LEFT BUT A FINAL GLORIOUS BATTLE. A FINAL CLASH THAT WILL NOT PALE WITH REPETITION, THAT SHALL LAST AS A FINAL DEED IN THE HISTORY OF ALL THINGS!
TRULY YOU HAVE LEARNED THE MEANING OF YOUR DESTINY.


HAHAHAHAH! THE WORD OF THE ASGARDIAN LORD IS HIS BOND! I SHALL HAVE MY DAY!
THOOM THOOM KRAKA-THOOM
FOR THE LORD OF ASGARD, MY FINEST FORGING! ONCE MY UNDOING, IT IS NOW MY GREATEST SOURCE OF PRIDE! IF EVER IT STRIKES ME DOWN, I WILL BE PLEASED TO TAKE MY DEATH FROM IT!
THAT IS NOT TO BE YOUR FATE. MJOLNIR SHALL NOT BE YOUR DEATH. YOU WILL HAVE NO SUCH HONOR. LEAD YOUR ARMIES TO MY LAND, AND GIVE THEM A FINAL DAY THAT SHALL SHAKE THE HEAVENS AND HELLS!
THOOM


MARCH TO DEATH! MARCH TO DESTRUCTION! MARCH TO THE FALL OF THE GODS! MARCH TO RAGNAROK!!!!

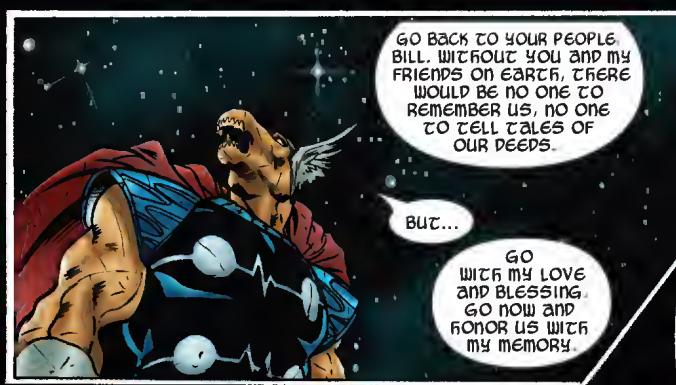

ONWARD, WARRIORS! BREAK YOUR SHIELDS, CRACK YOUR SWORDS AS THIS IS OUR FINAL DAY!
FOR BALDER!
FOR HEIMDALL!
FOR ODIN!
FOR ASGARD! FOR THOR!!
EMPTY YOUR SOULS INTO YOUR WEAPONS, MEN! LET YOUR SWORDS SING AND AXES CRY!




KRRATHOM!
RRRRAAAHH!!!

THUNDARRR!


BETA RAY BILL, MY FRIEND AND OATH-BROTHER!
THOR! WHAT IS HAPPENING?
IT IS THE END OF MY PEOPLE. I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DIE WITH US, DESPITE YOUR OATH.
NO! LET ME FIGHT! LET ME STAY!


GO BACK TO YOUR PEOPLE, BILL. WITHOUT YOU AND MY FRIENDS ON EARTH, THERE WOULD BE NO ONE TO REMEMBER US, NO ONE TO TELL TALES OF OUR DEEDS.
BUT...
GO WITH MY LOVE AND BLESSING. GO NOW AND HONOR US WITH MY MEMORY.


YES... I...I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I UNDERSTAND.


LOOK, BROTHER, LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ASGARD, TO OUR HOME! FATHER SHOULD HAVE FAVORED ME, NOT YOU. I WOULD NEVER HAVE LET *THIS* HAPPEN. DAMN YOU, BROTHER!!
LOOK.
FENRIS!
HE FULFILLS HIS DESTINY. HE SWALLOWS ALL THAT REMAINS.
BUT NOW THE CYCLE WILL BEGIN ANEW. ALL YOUR EFFORT IS FOR NAUGHT, AND *THOSE WHO SIT IN SHADOW* LAUGH AT YOUR DEEDS.
NAY. I HAVE ONE LAST TASK.

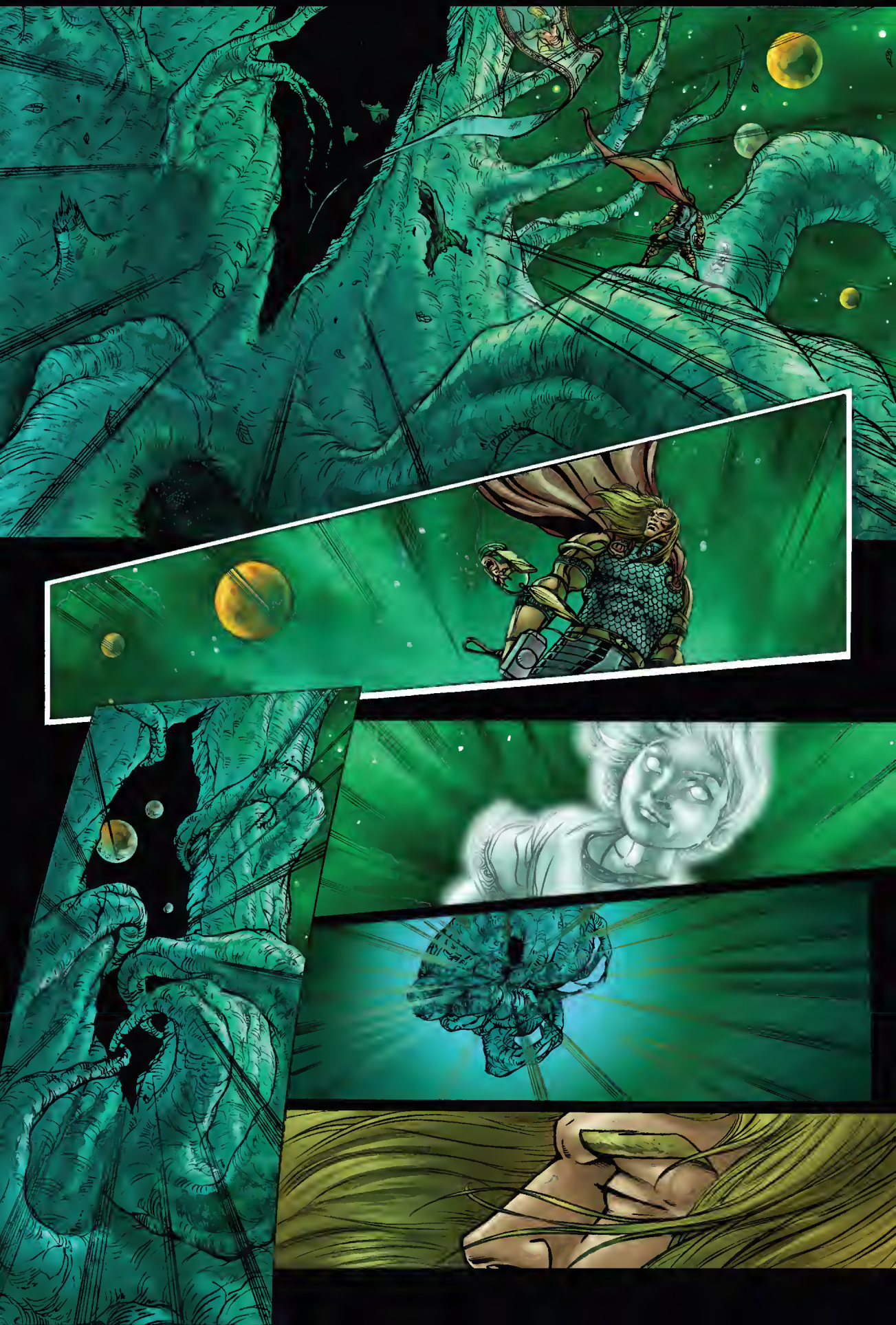

AND THIS BE OUR FINAL TASK.
NO! DON'T DO THIS, BROTHER, I AM BEGGING YOU!
I SEE NOW. THIS IS A TRUE ACT OF LIFE. FOR LIFE TO BE COMPLETE AND TRUE, IT MUST HAVE AN ENDING!


THOR, SON OF ODIN, SON OF GAEA, SON OF FRIGGA, SON OF ASGARD, SON OF EARTH, YOU HAVE NO POWER HERE.
WE KNEW OF THIS DAY FROM THE BEGINNING, AND IT WILL NOT COME TO PASS. YOU CANNOT DESTROY THE FATE ALREADY WOVEN.
HAH! SEE, YOU FOOL! YOU CANNOT CHALLENGE THE FATES!
THIS IS TRUE. I CANNOT CHANGE WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN. I HAVEN'T THE POWER FOR THAT.
THEN YOU HAVE FAILED. ANOTHER CYCLE WILL COME TO PASS. A NEW ASGARD BEGINS-- A WORLD THAT WILL BE A PALE IMITATION OF THE WORLD IT REPLACES...


LOOK, BROTHER, THIS TAPESTRY RECORDS ALL OF TIME, ALL OF FATE. THE HIGHER YOU GO, THE FURTHER BACK IN TIME YOU ARE. THESE ARE THE THREADS THE FATES SO PROUDLY WEAVE FOR US.
BUT LOOK HERE, BEHIND THE TAPESTRY--A SINGLE LINE OF THREAD LEADS BACK INTO THE LOOM. IT CONNECTS TO THE BEGINNING. THIS THREAD IS NOT A SINGLE LINE, BUT A CIRCLE.
NO! NO! IT'S NOT FAIR, THEY GAVE THIS POWER TO US-- TO US!
DON'T TAKE IT AWAY!
OH, NO. DON'T DO THIS, THOR, PLEASE!!! FOR THE SAKE OF ALL THINGS!
YES, YOU DO SEE A WAY!


HOLD, THOR! WE SEE YOUR DEEDS, YOU HAVE WON OUR RESPECT, AND OUR HONOR! WE WITNESS NOT ONLY YOUR STRENGTH BUT YOUR WISDOM!
YOU HAVE SEEN OUR GAME, AND YOU CALL US ON IT. YOU HAVE BESTED US, AND FOR THAT, WE ARE IN AWE.
WE WILL GRANT YOU THAT WHICH NO OTHER HAS BEEN GRANTED.
COME TO US. JOIN US ABOVE. SIT WITH US AND BE A GOD TO THE GODS!
YOU ARE TOO LATE, AND YOUR RESPECT MEANS LITTLE TO ME OR MY FALLEN BRETHREN. YOU "GODS OF GODS." LIKE A CHILD AFTER BEING CAUGHT AND FACING PUNISHMENT, YOU OFFER YOUR APOLOGIES TOO LATE.
I COME AS YOUR DOOM!


NOW YOU MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR DEEDS. THE VIRTUE OF HEROES YOU PLANTED WITHIN US IS FULLY REALIZED— WITH THIS ULTIMATE ACT OF SACRIFICE. THIS FINAL ACT OF BATTLE. THIS FINAL ACT OF COSMIC RITUAL!
NOOOO!




THOSE WHO SIT ABOVE IN SHADOW WERE CELESTIAL BEINGS WHO LIVED OFF THE GREAT ENERGIES GENERATED BY THE LIVES OF THE NORSE GODS. WITH EACH CYCLE THEY WOULD FEED; EACH RAGNAROK GAVE THEM SUSTENANCE. GAVE THEM LIFE. YOU HAVE DESTROYED THEM AND RETURNED HONOR TO YOUR PEOPLE.
THAT IS THE WAY OF ALL THINGS, LIFE; TO SURVIVE, WE MUST DESTROY OR CONSUME OTHER LIFE. BE IT AN ANT EATING A LEAF, OR CELESTIAL BEINGS ABSORBING THE LIFE FORCES OF OTHERS. SUCH IS AN IRREFUTABLE TRUTH: LIFE CONSUMES LIFE.


YOU HAVE TRULY SET YOUR PEOPLE FREE, THUNDER GOD. YOU POSSESSED SOMETHING THOSE WHO SIT ABOVE IN SHADOW COULD NOT COMPREHEND, AND THEREFORE COULD NOT FORESEE.
YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HUMANITY, A GIFT FROM YOUR FATHER, SHIELDED YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS FROM THE SHADOW GODS. THEY COULD NOT SEE THAT YOU WOULD NOT WALK BLINDLY INTO THE BATTLE OF RAGNAROK WITHOUT SEEKING ANOTHER WAY AND THEREBY REVEALING THEIR INTENT.
YOUR SINGULAR EXPERIENCE AS BOTH GOD AND MAN HAS SET YOU APART. IT GAVE YOU A HUMAN UNDERSTANDING OF FACE, OF SELF-DETERMINATION, OF SELF-SACRIFICE. THAT KNOWLEDGE COMBINED WITH THE UNYIELDING HEROISM OF THE GODS SAVED YOU. IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS, MAN WILL ALWAYS FIGHT, NEVER BACK DOWN NOR SURRENDER.
WHERE THE ASGARDIAN GODS EMBRACED A SINGULAR, INEVITABLE DEATH--THE SHADOW GODS TRAPPED THEM IN A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE--YOUR HUMAN EXPERIENCE SOUGHT ANOTHER WAY... NOT A PATH OF BATTLE, BUT ONE OF KNOWLEDGE.
AT LONG LAST, THE GREAT NORSE GODS HAVE FOUGHT THEIR FINAL BATTLE; THEY HAVE FINALLY LIVED THE END OF TIMES...ALL THAT REMAINS OF YOUR PEOPLE ARE THEIR MEMORIES WHAT NOW, THUNDER GOD?


THAT I KNOW NOT. FOR ALL MY NEWFOUND WISDOM, NOW THAT I TRULY REMEMBER EVERY MOMENT OF MY THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF LIFE...I DO NOT KNOW. I GRIEVE FOR THE LOSS OF MY PEOPLE, AND YET I REJOICE IN THEIR GLORIOUS END. BUT I MUST NOW STAND ALONE. FOR EVEN AS I SPEAK, I SENSE THAT YOU ARE FADING FROM ME, TOO.
AND, AS I GAZE INTO ETERNITY...I SEE NOTHING...
IF ONLY I HAD A STAR TO GUIDE ME...
OR A BIRD TO SHOW ME A SIGN...
FOR THE MOMENT, I THINK, I WILL REST...
I'LL LIE STILL AND SILENT. STRIP MY MIND OF THOUGHTS...
I SHALL CLOSE MY EYES AND BREATHE DEEP THE SLUMBER OF GODS... FOR AWHILE, AT LEAST...


BENDIS • FINCH • MIKI
THE AVENGERS
DISASSEMBLED
MARVEL
PSR 502
CHAOS
PART 3
ONE OF THESE AVENGERS WILL DIE!
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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents...

PREVIOUSLY

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS

DISASSEMBLED

"CHAOS" PART THREE OF FOUR



It is the worst day in Avengers history. The return of the believed-dead Jack of Hearts ends in his untimely self-detonation, taking half of Avengers Mansion and Scott Lang, aka Ant-Man, with him.

Before the Avengers can react to this tragedy, long-time member the Vision crashes a quinjet into the mansion, unleashing a small horde of unstoppable Ultron robots on the remaining members. A gruesome fight ensues that ends with She-Hulk losing control of herself, hurting many members of the team, and going on a wild rampage.

Across town, Iron Man is addressing the United Nations in his capacity as U. S. Secretary of Defense when he finds himself inexplicably drunk and out of control. His vicious public display in front of the united world leaders leaves him devastated and humiliated.

Now the Avengers call has gone out. Code White, the highest-level emergency.

When Captain America and Hawkeye return to the mansion they are met with a large gathering of one-time Avengers and associatesw, ready to help.

They have answered the call.

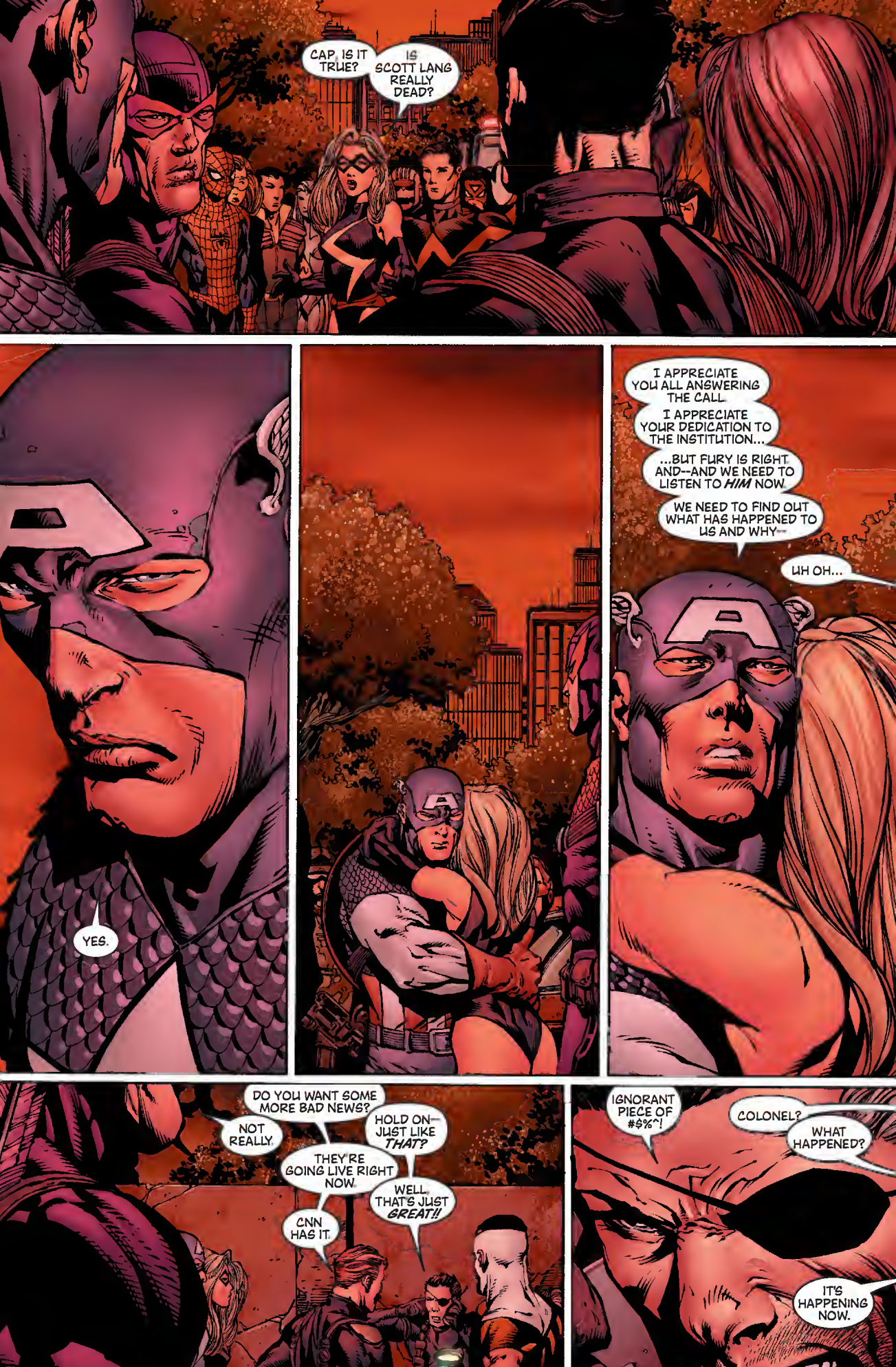
Writer: Brian Michael Bendis
Penciler: David Finch
Inker: Danny Miki
Colorist: Frank D'Armata
Letterer: RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne

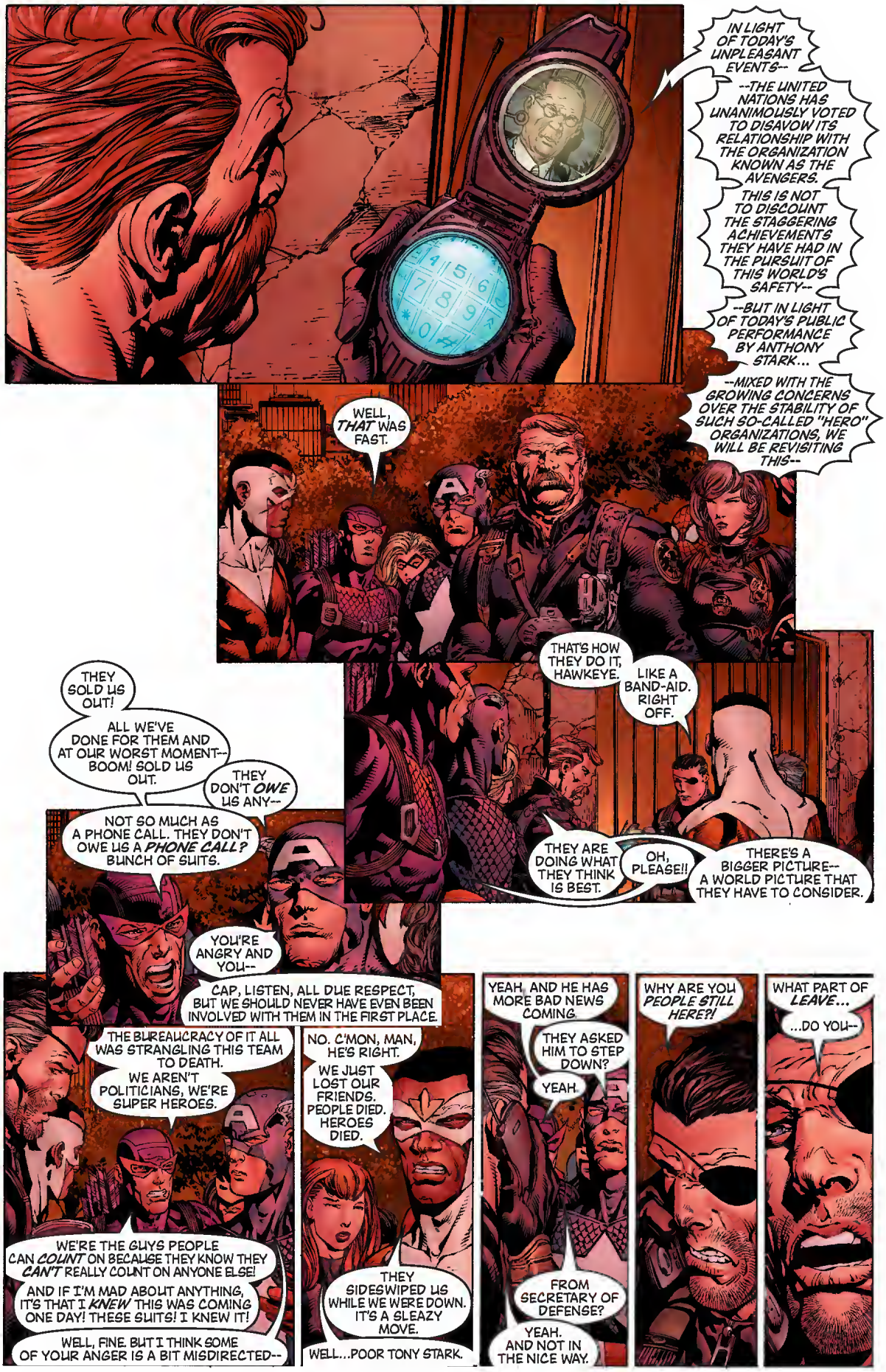
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Associate Editor: Andy Schmidt
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WHY HAVE YOU ALL COME HERE?
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU HAVE US DO, CAPTAIN?
THIS-- WE WERE *ALL* AVENGERS ONCE UPON A TIME. AND THE AVENGERS ARE IN TROUBLE.
THE CALL WENT OUT. WE HAVE ANSWERED IT.
AND, AS I WAS JUST TELLING YOU *ALL*-- NOBLE AS YOUR PRESENCE HERE MIGHT BE, I NEED YOU PEOPLE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
BUT, COLONEL FURY, FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, THIS IS ONE OF, IF NOT *THE*, WORST DAYS IN AVENGERS HISTORY.
I THINK EVERYONE IS HERE OUT OF A SENSE OF--
THAT'S FINE AND GOOD, RICHARDS, BUT GO DO IT OVER THERE IN CENTRAL PARK.
THIS IS A *LIVE CRIME SCENE.*
AT LEAST TWO AVENGERS *DIED* HERE JUST HOURS AGO, AND YOU PEOPLE ARE *TAINTING* THE CRIME SCENE.
YOU'RE A SCIENTIST. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW...
ANY ONE OF YOU COULD BE EMITTING *TOXINS OR RADIATIONS* INTO THE AIR THAT ARE CORRUPTING THE ENVIRONMENT--AFFECTING THE ATMOSPHERE.
NO MATTER HOW SUBTLE. NO MATTER *HOW* INFINITESIMAL.
WE HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT WENT ON HERE TODAY... AND UNTIL S.H.I.E.L.D. GETS THE PROPER FIELD READINGS...
WHAT YOU PEOPLE ARE DOING HERE RIGHT NOW IS *ILLEGAL!!*
DISPERSE!!


CAP, IS IT TRUE?
IS SCOTT LANG REALLY DEAD?
YES.
I APPRECIATE YOU ALL ANSWERING THE CALL.
I APPRECIATE YOUR DEDICATION TO THE INSTITUTION...
...BUT FURY IS RIGHT. AND--AND WE NEED TO LISTEN TO *HIM* NOW.
WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US AND WHY--
UH OH...
DO YOU WANT SOME MORE BAD NEWS?
NOT REALLY.
HOLD ON--JUST LIKE *THAT*?
THEY'RE GOING LIVE RIGHT NOW.
CNN HAS IT.
WELL. THAT'S JUST *GREAT!!*
IGNORANT PIECE OF #$%^!
COLONEL?
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S HAPPENING NOW.

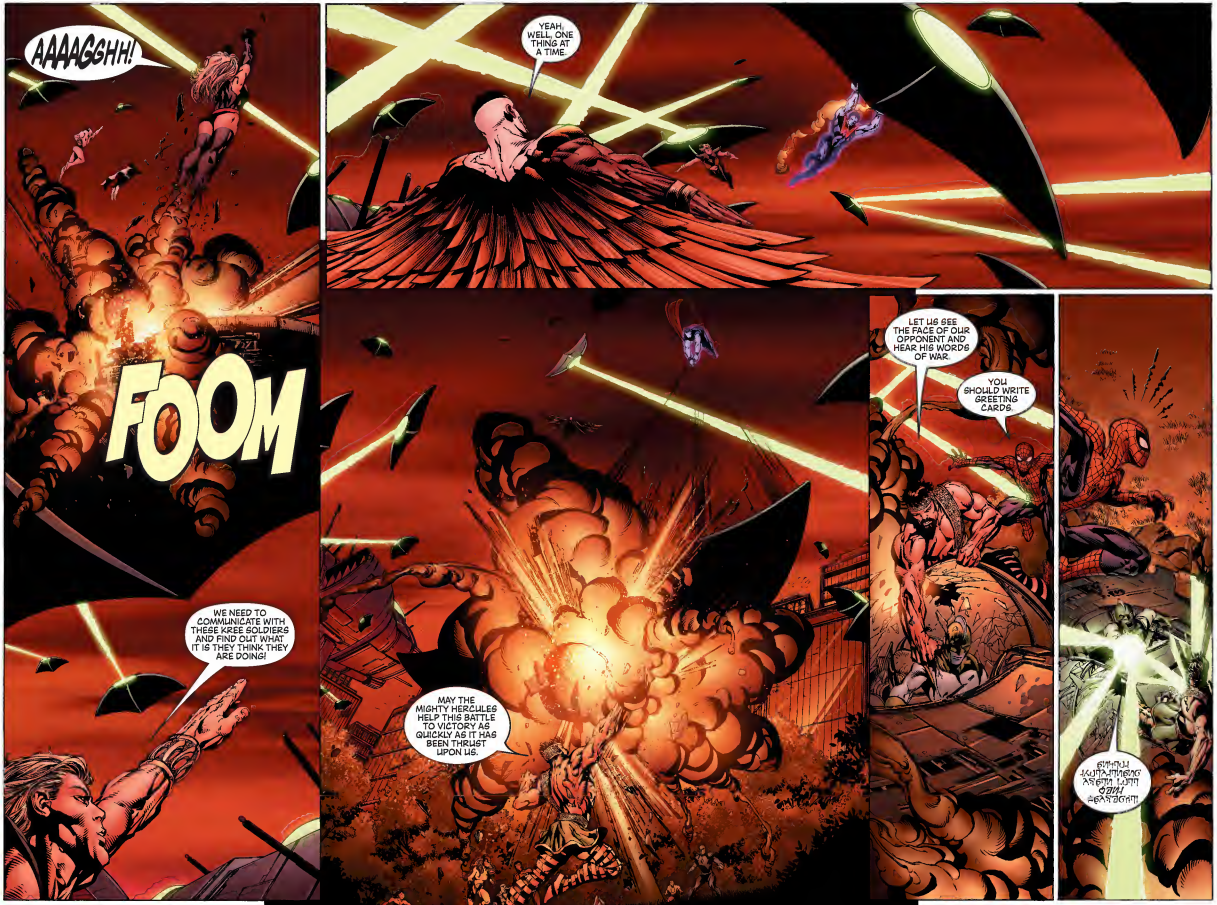

IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S UNPLEASANT EVENTS--
--THE UNITED NATIONS HAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO DISAVOW ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE AVENGERS.
THIS IS NOT TO DISCOUNT THE STAGGERING ACHIEVEMENTS THEY HAVE HAD IN THE PURSUIT OF THIS WORLD'S SAFETY--
--BUT IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S PUBLIC PERFORMANCE BY ANTHONY STARK...
--MIXED WITH THE GROWING CONCERNS OVER THE STABILITY OF SUCH SO-CALLED "HERO" ORGANIZATIONS, WE WILL BE REVISITING THIS--
WELL, THAT WAS FAST.
THAT'S HOW THEY DO IT, HAWKEYE.
LIKE A BAND-AID. RIGHT OFF.
THEY ARE DOING WHAT THEY THINK IS BEST.
OH, PLEASE!!
THERE'S A BIGGER PICTURE-- A WORLD PICTURE THAT THEY HAVE TO CONSIDER.
THEY SOLD US OUT!
ALL WE'VE DONE FOR THEM AND AT OUR WORST MOMENT-- BOOM! SOLD US OUT.
THEY DON'T OWE US ANY--
NOT SO MUCH AS A PHONE CALL. THEY DON'T OWE US A PHONE CALL? BUNCH OF SUITS.
YOU'RE ANGRY AND YOU--
CAP, LISTEN, ALL DUE RESPECT, BUT WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE EVEN BEEN INVOLVED WITH THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THE BUREAUCRACY OF IT ALL WAS STRANGLING THIS TEAM TO DEATH.
WE AREN'T POLITICIANS, WE'RE SUPER HEROES.
NO. C'MON, MAN, HE'S RIGHT.
WE JUST LOST OUR FRIENDS. PEOPLE DIED. HEROES DIED.
WE'RE THE GUYS PEOPLE CAN COUNT ON BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY CAN'T REALLY COUNT ON ANYONE ELSE!
AND IF I'M MAD ABOUT ANYTHING, IT'S THAT I KNEW THIS WAS COMING ONE DAY! THESE SUITS! I KNEW IT!
WELL, FINE. BUT I THINK SOME OF YOUR ANGER IS A BIT MISDIRECTED--
THEY SIDESWIPED US WHILE WE WERE DOWN. IT'S A SLEAZY MOVE.
WELL...POOR TONY STARK.
YEAH, AND HE HAS MORE BAD NEWS COMING.
THEY ASKED HIM TO STEP DOWN?
YEAH.
FROM SECRETARY OF DEFENSE?
YEAH. AND NOT IN THE NICE WAY.
WHY ARE YOU PEOPLE STILL HERE?!
WHAT PART OF LEAVE...
...DO YOU--


HELICARRIER, THIS IS FURY. WHAT ARE YOU READING?
I'M SORRY, COLONEL?
WHAT ARE YOU READING, SOLDIER? I NEED INTEL, ASAP.
ON WHAT EXACTLY, SIR?
THERE'S AN ALIEN CRAFT SPINNING AROUND OVER OUR HEADS--
UH, I'M NOT PICKING UP ANYTHING, COLONEL.
CAP?
ANY AVENGER WHO CAN FLY-- ASSEMBLE.
WARBIRD, TAKE THE LEAD! GET UP THERE AND SEE WHAT THIS IS--
NICK, YOU CAN'T STOP THEM. SO DON'T.
NO, WE HAVE TO--
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
YOU DON'T SEE THIS?
UH, I SEE IT.
IT ISN'T REAL!
OH MY GOD...
I, UH, I NEED TO GO GET SOME MORE ARROWS




HELICARRIER!!
STILL NOTHING, COLONEL. WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
LOOK OUT YOUR $%^&ING WINDOW!
OH! OH MY--
YEAH.
FABAM
FOOMP
AGH!


ANY OF YOU JOKERS SPEAK KREE?
I BARELY SPEAK ENGLISH GOOD.
WHY ARE THEY HERE? WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS?
WELL, MAYBE I'M JUST PUNCHY FROM BEING IN EVERY WORLD WAR SINCE THEY INVENTED THEM...
...BUT IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HERE FOR A $$%%^IN' PICNIC!
FORCE SHIELDS!
CARRIER!! I NEED DETAILED INTEL ON KREE DEFENSE SYSTEMS AND ATTACK PATTERNS, AND I NEED IT NOW!!


AAAAGGHH!
FOOM
WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THESE KREE SOLDIERS AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS THEY THINK THEY ARE DOING!
YEAH. WELL, ONE THING AT A TIME.
MAY THE MIGHTY HERCULES HELP THIS BATTLE TO VICTORY AS QUICKLY AS IT HAS BEEN THRUST UPON US.
LET US SEE THE FACE OF OUR OPPONENT AND HEAR HIS WORDS OF WAR.
YOU SHOULD WRITE GREETING CARDS.
WHOEVER WHO WHEN WHERE WHY WHAT?


THWIP
HEY, YOU FORGOT TO TIP YOUR VALET.
THWAP
AARRGH!
CLANG
YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, SOLDIER?


AAGGH!
QUASAR!
WHY HAVE YOU ATTACKED US? WHY IS THE KREE ARMADA ATTACKING EARTH SOIL?
AND TRANSLATE IT FOR US, SLAPPY--WE KNOW YOU CAN.
YOU-- YOU AVENGERS INSULT OUR ENTIRE WARRIOR RACE.
WE ASKED YOU A QUESTION!
WE HAVE COME TO REMOVE YOU FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS OF THE GREAT KREE CULTURE!!
WHY NOW? OF ALL TIMES-- WHY NOW?
IT WAS FORETOLD BY THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE THAT THIS DAY AND TIME WOULD COME. THIS IS THE END OF THE AVENGERS!!
AND THE KREE HAVE ARRIVED TO SEE IT SO. YOU WILL DIE BY THE HAND OF THOSE YOU BETRAYED--
HOW DID WE BETRAY YOU?
THIS IS THE DAY!!


THIS AIN'T RIGHT!!
ON MANY LEVELS.
NAH-- I MEAN IT!
THESE KREE-- THEY HAVE US AT A TOTAL DISADVANTAGE!!
THEY HAVE THE TECH AND MACHINERY TO LEVEL NEW YORK WITHOUT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT.
THERE AIN'T NO REASON FOR ANY ONE OF THEM TO TOUCH EARTH DIRT!!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR A GROUND ASSAULT!!
I'M TELLIN' YA!!
THIS AIN'T RIGHT!!


OK, YA LI'L PISHERS...
...TIME TO END THIS.
FI222
FI222
FI222
FI222
FI222
COME ON, AVENGERS!
LET'S END THIS OUR WAY!!
THESE BLUE !@#$% CAME AROUND *TODAY*? LOOKING FOR A *FIGHT*?
FTUNK
FTUNK
FTUNK
FTUNK
LET'S SEND THEM HOME WITH SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!


YOU ALIEN %^$*S PICKED THE WRONG DAY TO SCREW WITH *THIS* AVENGER!!
IN THE FUTURE, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS--
AW, CRAP!!
NEED SOME HELP HERE!!
HAWKEYE!!


NOT LIKE THIS!!
NOT LIKE THIS!!
HAWKEYE!!!
LIKE THIS!!




AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!


NO!!
NONONONO NOOOOO!!
WHAT HAPPENED, CAROL?
THEY'RE GONE!!
GONE GONE?
HELICARRIER?
THERE'S NO READINGS THAT WE CAN--
WHEN I GET UP THERE, I WANT ANSWERS!!
YOU GUYS ARE SERIOUSLY UNDERPERFORMING!!
BEN, DON'T--
WE GOTTA AT LEAST GET HIS BODY OUT OF THERE! THE GUY DESERVES A NORMAL--
THE HELL IS THIS?
IT'S NOT PAPER--
IT AIN'T METAL--
IT SEEMS LIKE--I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.
AND YOU WITH THE BIG BRAIN
SOMEONE BETTER GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS BEFORE I TOTALLY LOSE MY--
I'M SORRY I COULD NOT GET HERE SOONER--

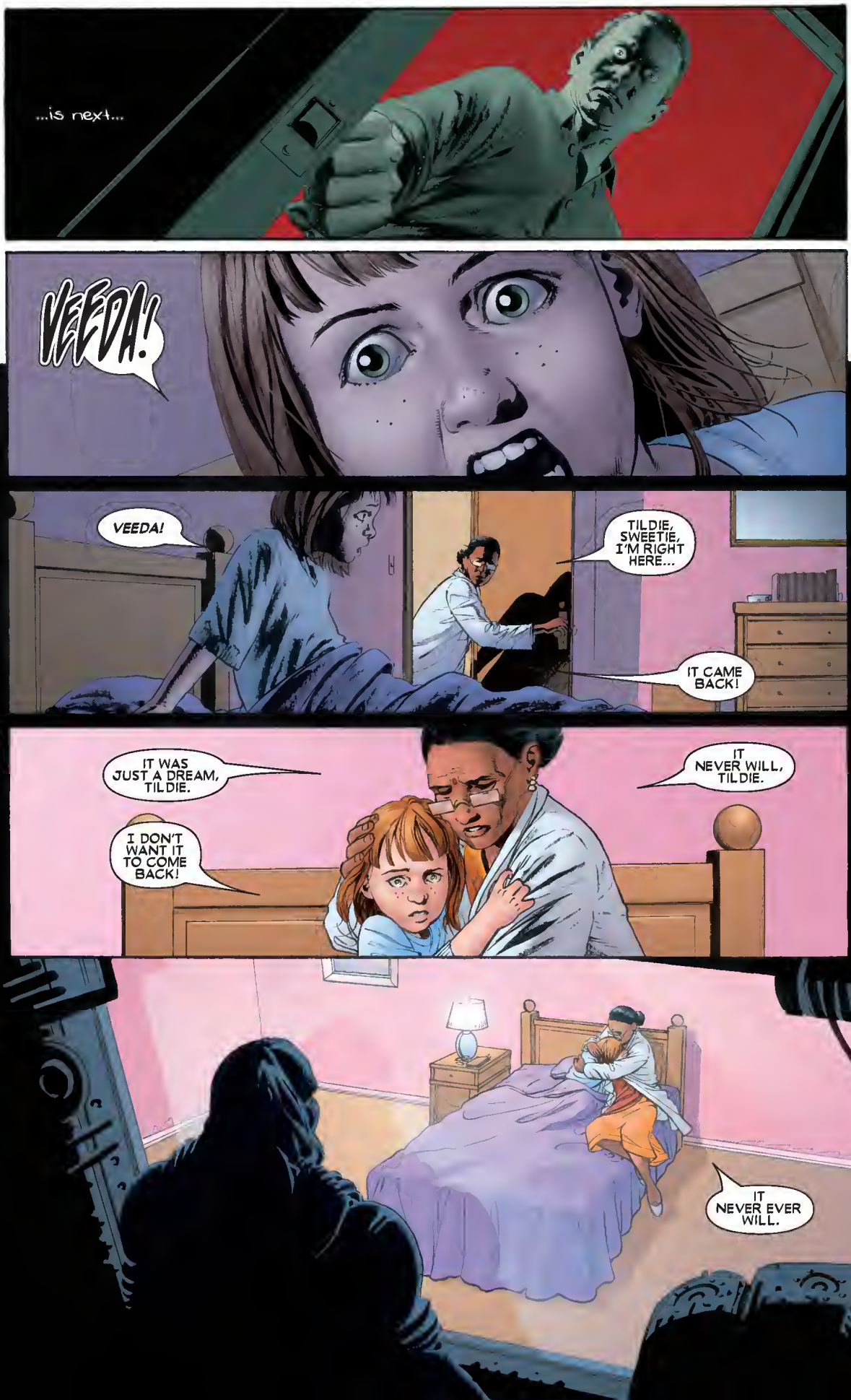

BUT I THOUGHT BY NOW YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THE TRUE NATURE OF THESE ATTACKS.
THE MAGICS ARE BEING ABUSED.
DOCTOR STRANGE--?
OH NO...


MARVEL
PSR 1
JOSS WHEDON
JOHN CASSADAY
ASTONISHING
X-MEN

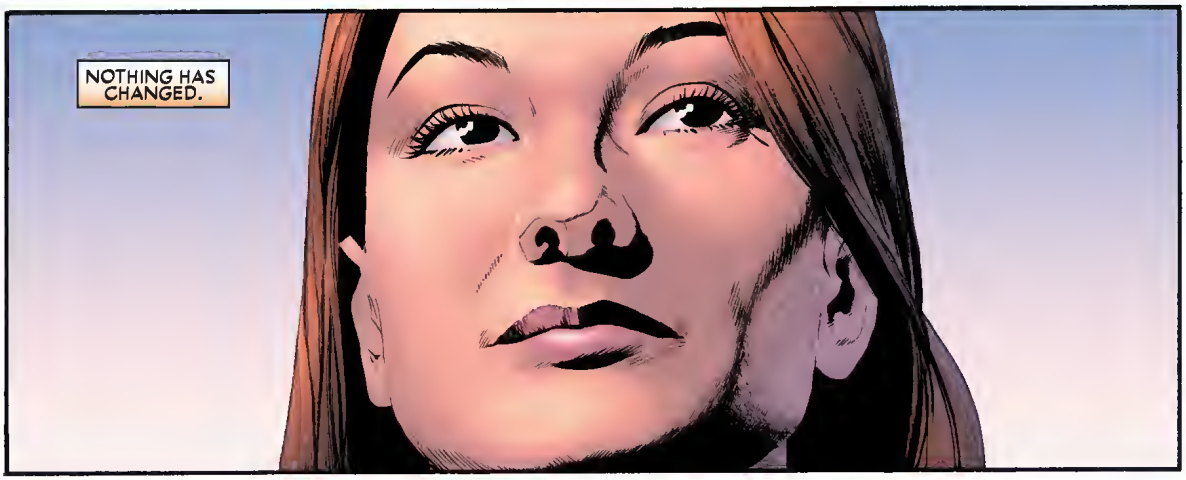


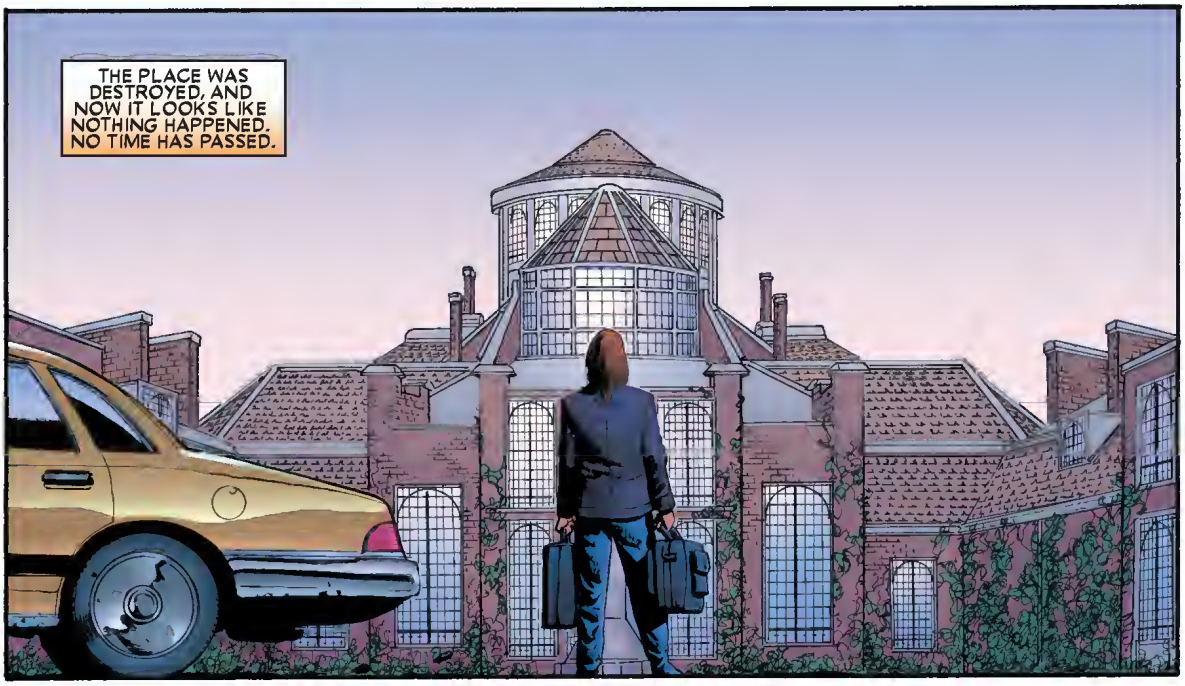
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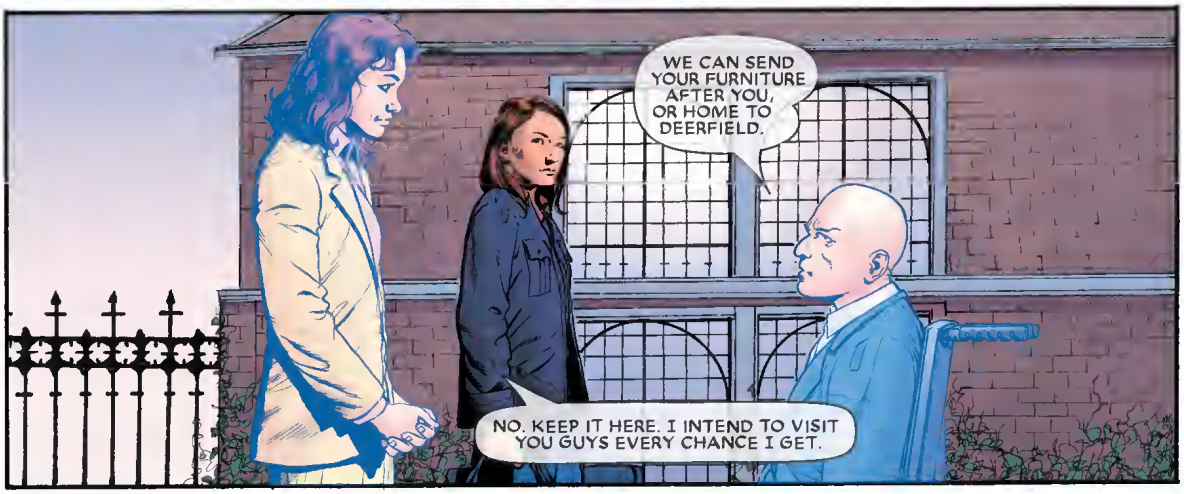
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...is next...
VEEDA!
VEEDA!
TILDIE, SWEETIE, I'M RIGHT HERE...
IT CAME BACK!
IT WAS JUST A DREAM, TILDIE.
I DON'T WANT IT TO COME BACK!
IT NEVER WILL, TILDIE.
IT NEVER EVER WILL.

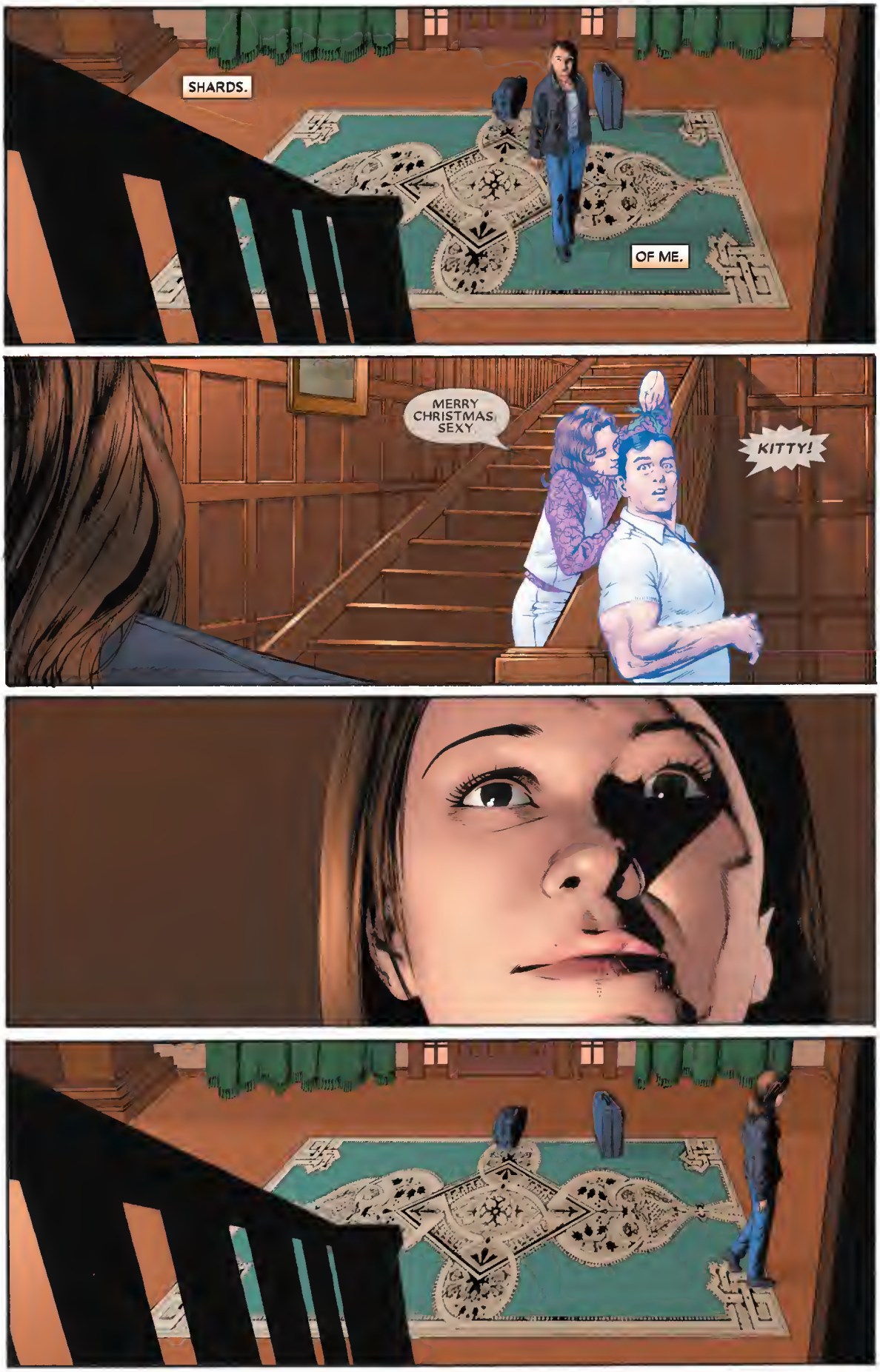
GIFTED

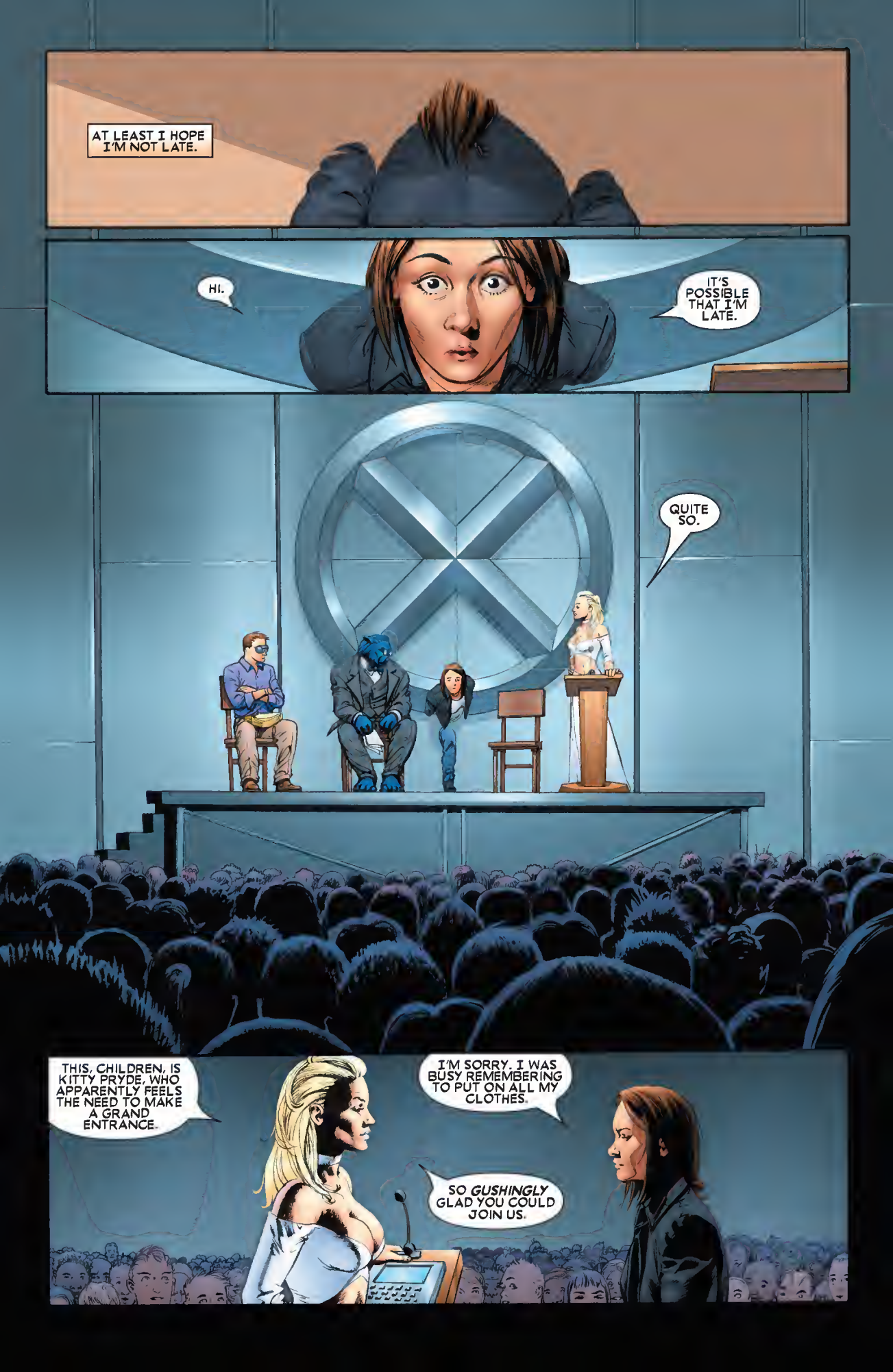

NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

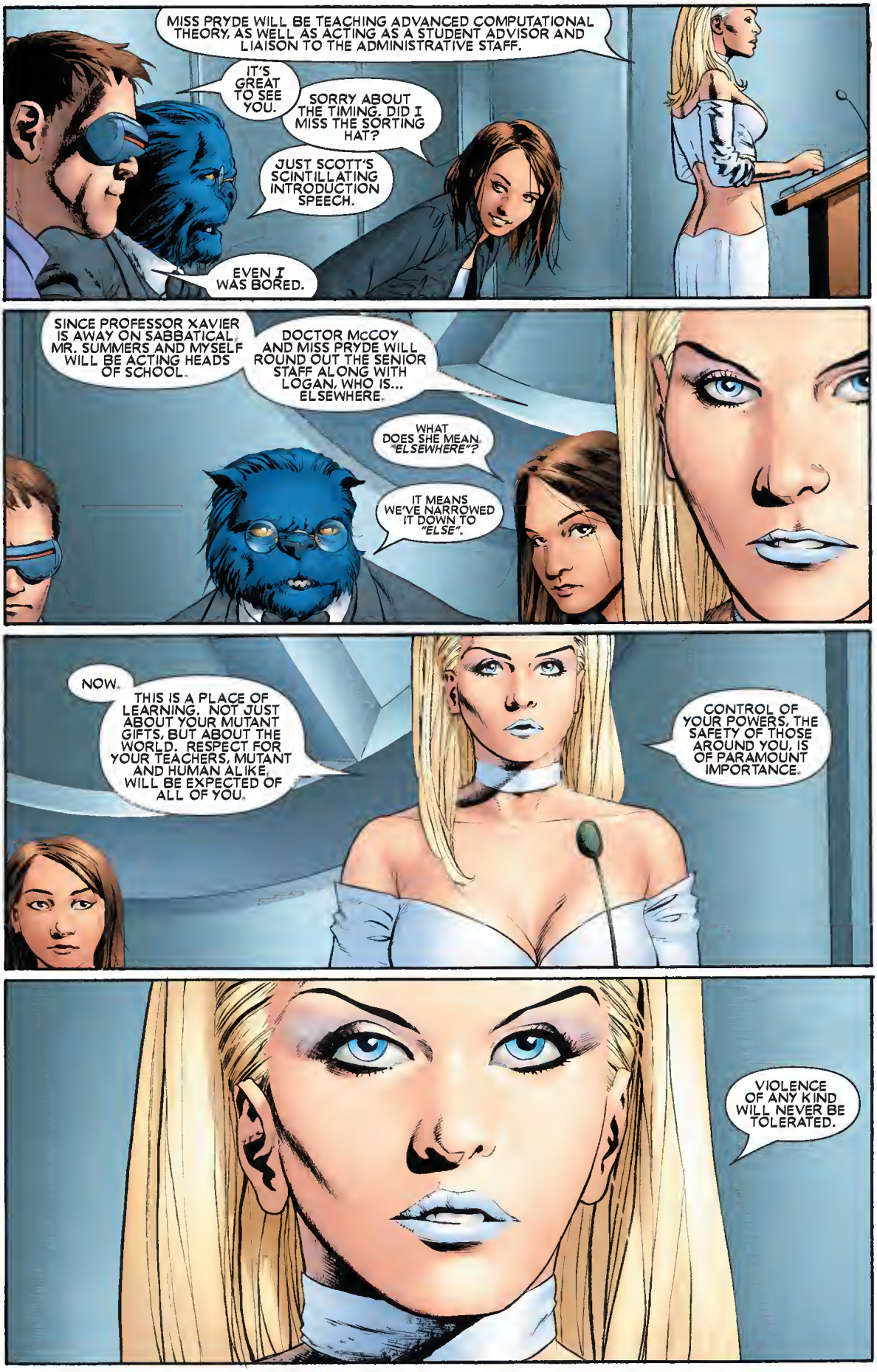

THE PLACE WAS DESTROYED, AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED. NO TIME HAS PASSED.


WE CAN SEND YOUR FURNITURE AFTER YOU, OR HOME TO DEERFIELD.
NO. KEEP IT HERE. I INTEND TO VISIT YOU GUYS EVERY CHANCE I GET.

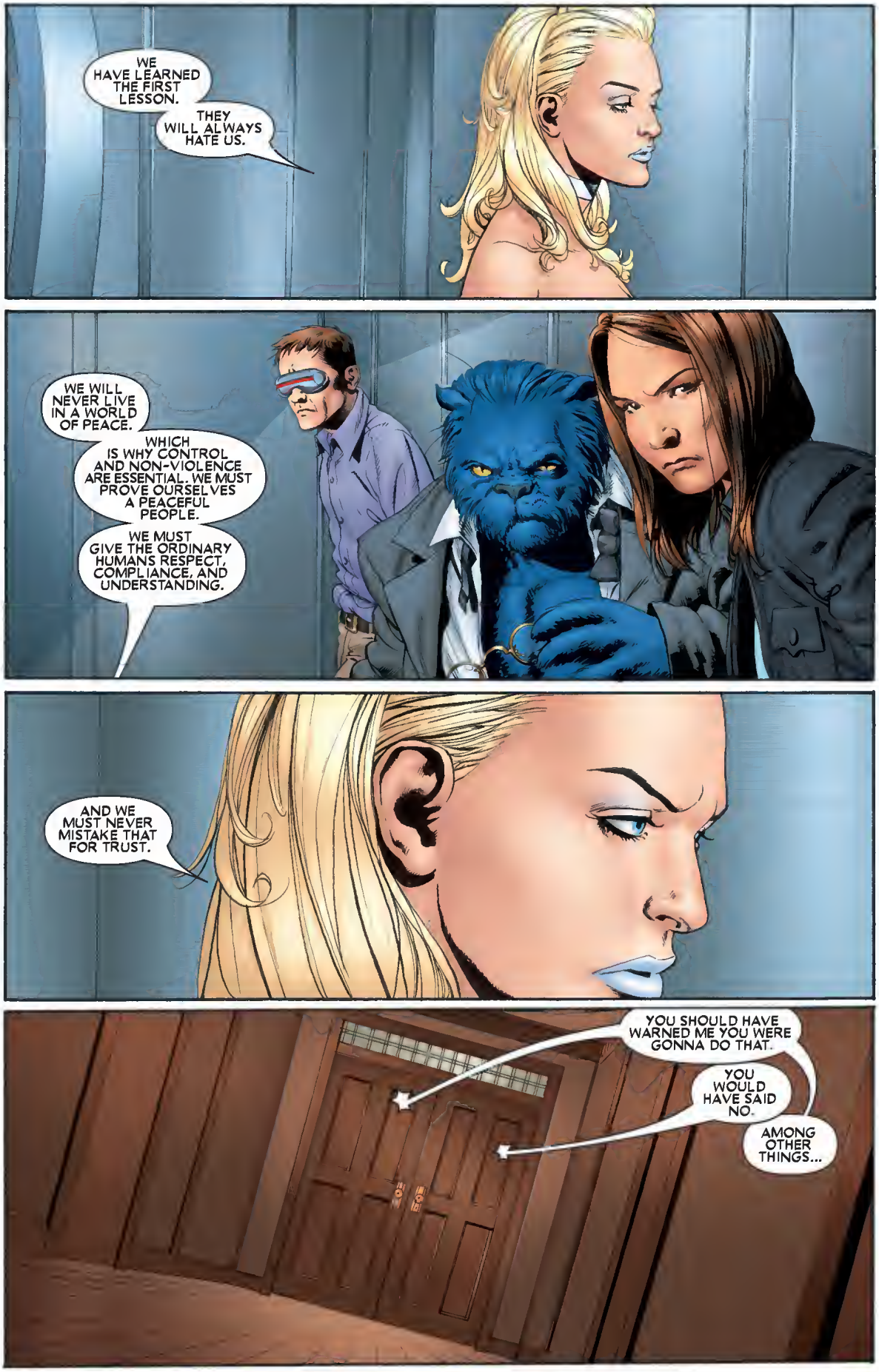

OF COURSE THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE IT REBUILT THIS WAY. GIVE EVERYONE A SENSE OF STABILITY. CONTINUITY.
NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
NOT EVEN ME.
PROFESSOR XAVIER IS A JERK!
I'M A KID AGAIN, OUT OF MY DEPTH-- COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY EVERYTHING HERE AND IT ISN'T THE SIDRI, OR SENTINELS, OR THE BROOD THAT SURROUND ME...
IT'S THE SMALLER PIECES.


SHARDS.
OF ME.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, SEXY
KITTY!


AT LEAST I HOPE I'M NOT LATE.
HI.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'M LATE.
QUITE SO.
THIS, CHILDREN, IS KITTY PRYDE, WHO APPARENTLY FEELS THE NEED TO MAKE A GRAND ENTRANCE.
I'M SORRY. I WAS BUSY REMEMBERING TO PUT ON ALL MY CLOTHES.
SO *GUSHINGLY* GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.

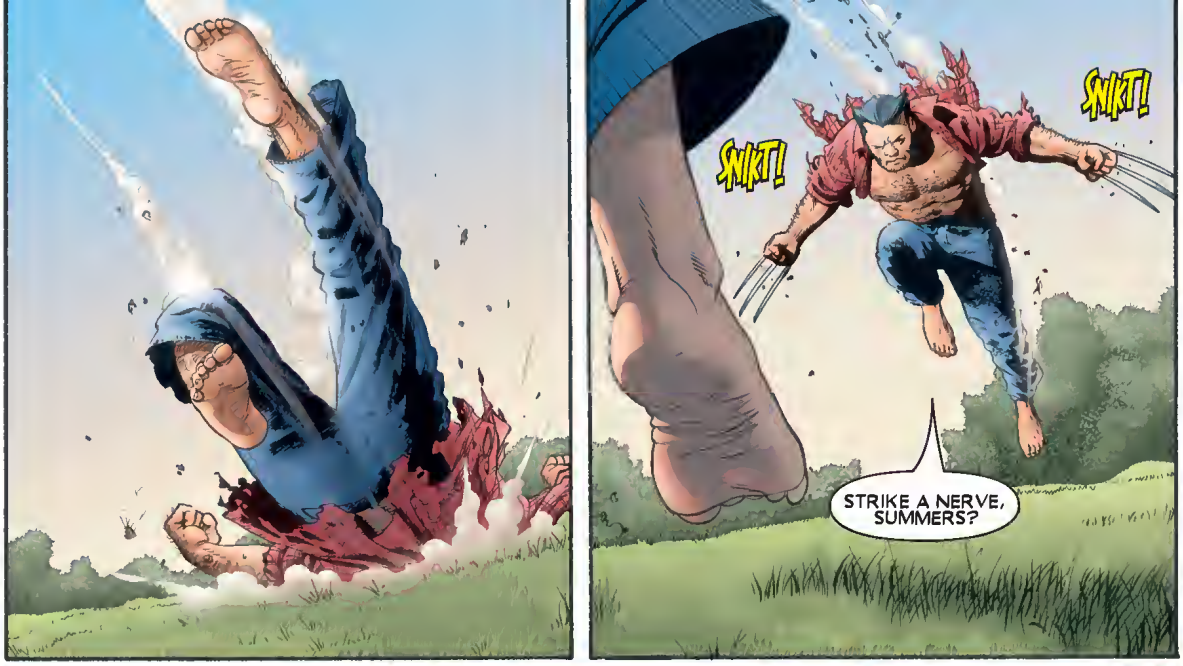

MISS PRYDE WILL BE TEACHING ADVANCED COMPUTATIONAL THEORY, AS WELL AS ACTING AS A STUDENT ADVISOR AND LIAISON TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU.
SORRY ABOUT THE TIMING. DID I MISS THE SORTING HAT?
JUST SCOTT'S SCINTILLATING INTRODUCTION SPEECH.
EVEN I WAS BORED.
SINCE PROFESSOR XAVIER IS AWAY ON SABBATICAL, MR. SUMMERS AND MYSELF WILL BE ACTING HEADS OF SCHOOL.
DOCTOR McCOY AND MISS PRYDE WILL ROUND OUT THE SENIOR STAFF ALONG WITH LOGAN, WHO IS... ELSEWHERE.
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN, "ELSEWHERE"?
IT MEANS WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO "ELSE".
NOW.
THIS IS A PLACE OF LEARNING. NOT JUST ABOUT YOUR MUTANT GIFTS, BUT ABOUT THE WORLD. RESPECT FOR YOUR TEACHERS, MUTANT AND HUMAN ALIKE, WILL BE EXPECTED OF ALL OF YOU.
CONTROL OF YOUR POWERS, THE SAFETY OF THOSE AROUND YOU, IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.
VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND WILL NEVER BE TOLERATED.


DANGER ROOM
ENVIRONMENT: AUDITORIUM
SIMULATION: SCENARIO 274
END
SO.
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?


WE HAVE LEARNED THE FIRST LESSON.
THEY WILL ALWAYS HATE US.
WE WILL NEVER LIVE IN A WORLD OF PEACE.
WHICH IS WHY CONTROL AND NON-VIOLENCE ARE ESSENTIAL. WE MUST PROVE OURSELVES A PEACEFUL PEOPLE.
WE MUST GIVE THE ORDINARY HUMANS RESPECT, COMPLIANCE, AND UNDERSTANDING.
AND WE MUST NEVER MISTAKE THAT FOR TRUST.
YOU SHOULD HAVE WARNED ME YOU WERE GONNA DO THAT.
YOU WOULD HAVE SAID NO.
AMONG OTHER THINGS...

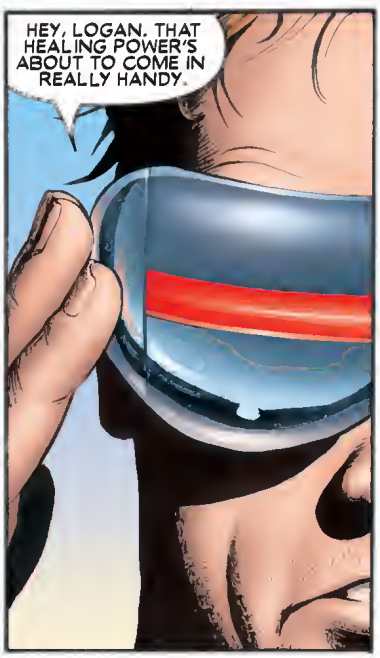

I SCANNED THE STUDENTS. NEARLY TEN PERCENT OF THEM WERE MORE THAN A LITTLE EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT OF A FIGHT. I THOUGHT WE SHOULD KNOW...
WHICH ONES WERE--
I'M NOT XAVIER, SCOTT. I'LL GO THROUGH THE ROSTER, TRY TO NARROW IT DOWN.
TOMORROW.
SO TELL ME...


...WHICH STAGE OF GRIEVING IS THIS?
DENIAL?
SHKOW!


SNIKT!
SNIKT!
STRIKE A NERVE, SUMMERS?


THIS IS GOOD.
THE GUY WHO'S TRIED TO STEAL MY WIFE SINCE THE DAY HE MET US IS GONNA TELL ME ALL ABOUT WHAT'S PROPER.

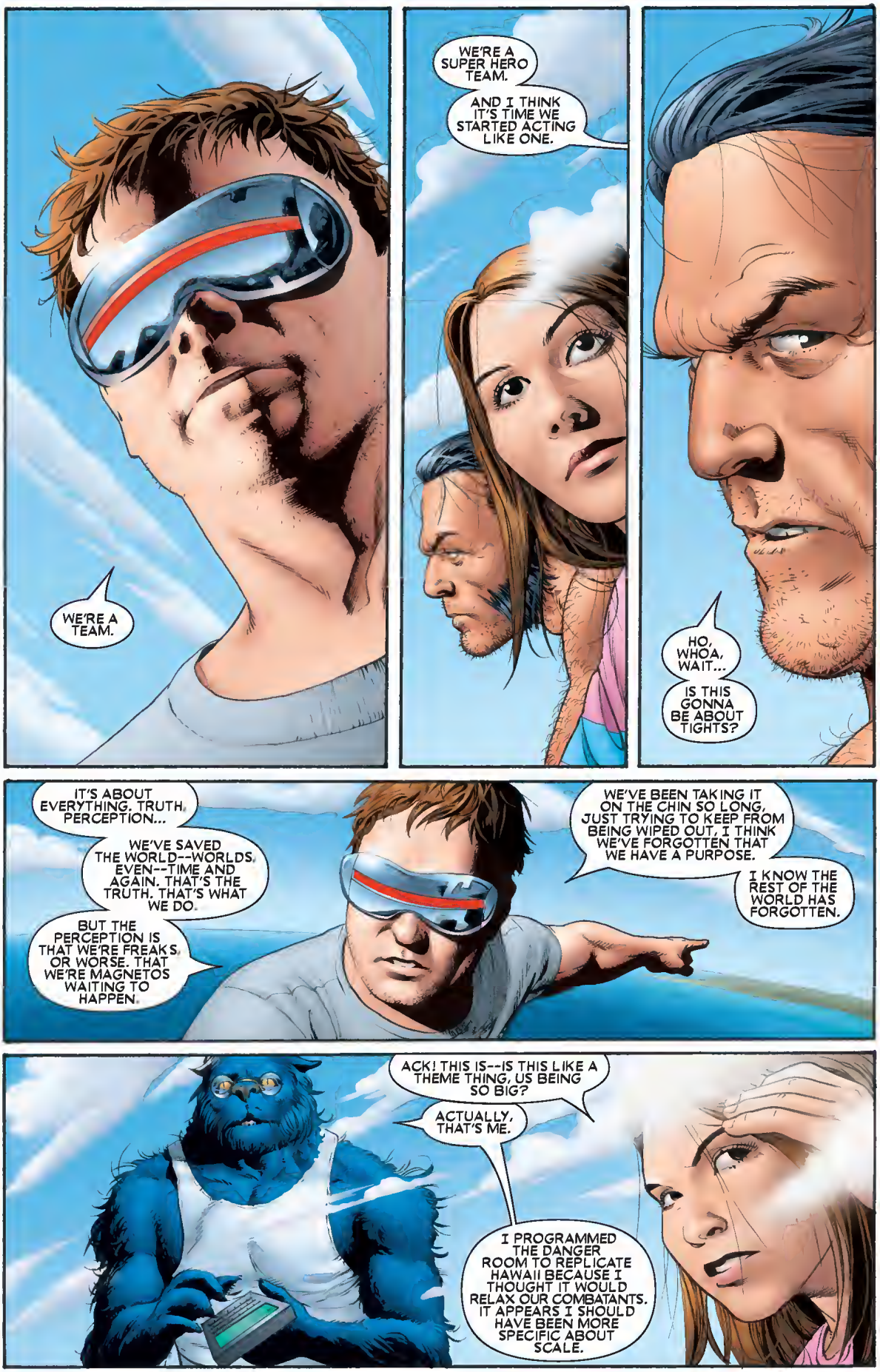

ONLY REASON JEAN AND YOU STAYED TOGETHER AT ALL IS SHE WAS TOO STRONG TO GIVE IN TO WHAT SHE REALLY WANTED...
...AND YOU WERE TOO SCARED.

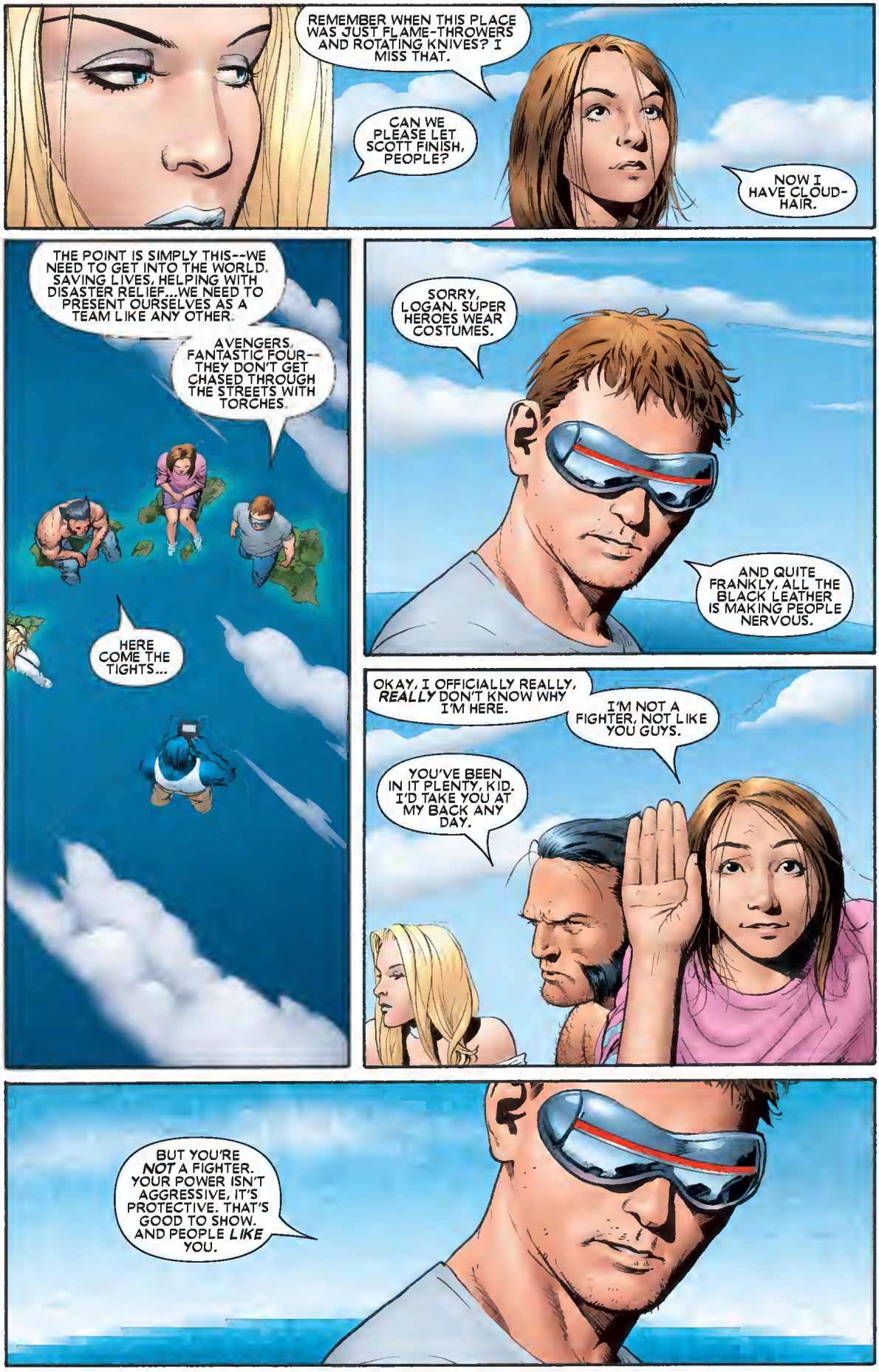

HEY, LOGAN. THAT HEALING POWER'S ABOUT TO COME IN REALLY HANDY.

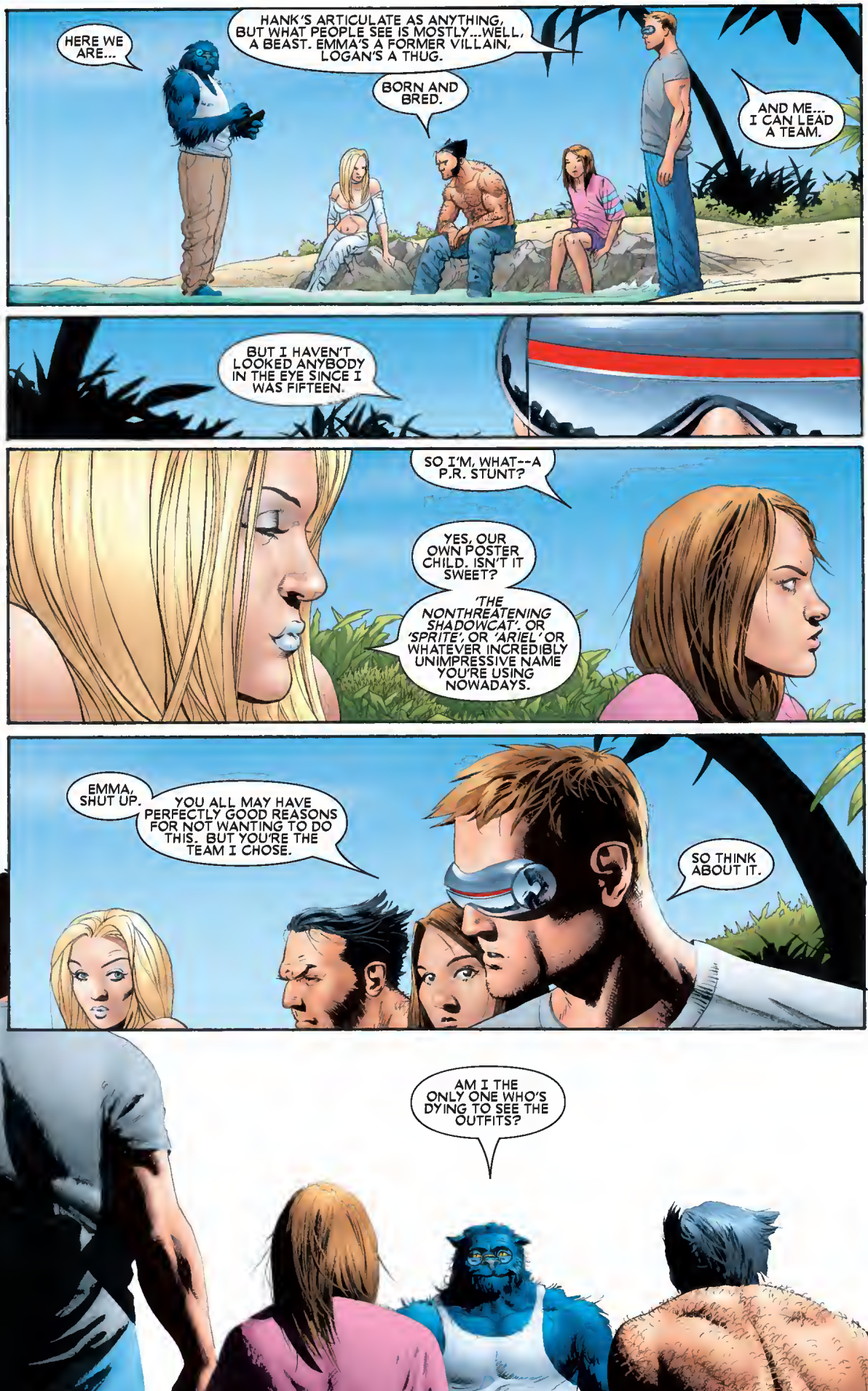

SHKOW!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SUPERPOWERS, A SCINTILLATING WIT AND THE BEST BODY MONEY CAN BUY...

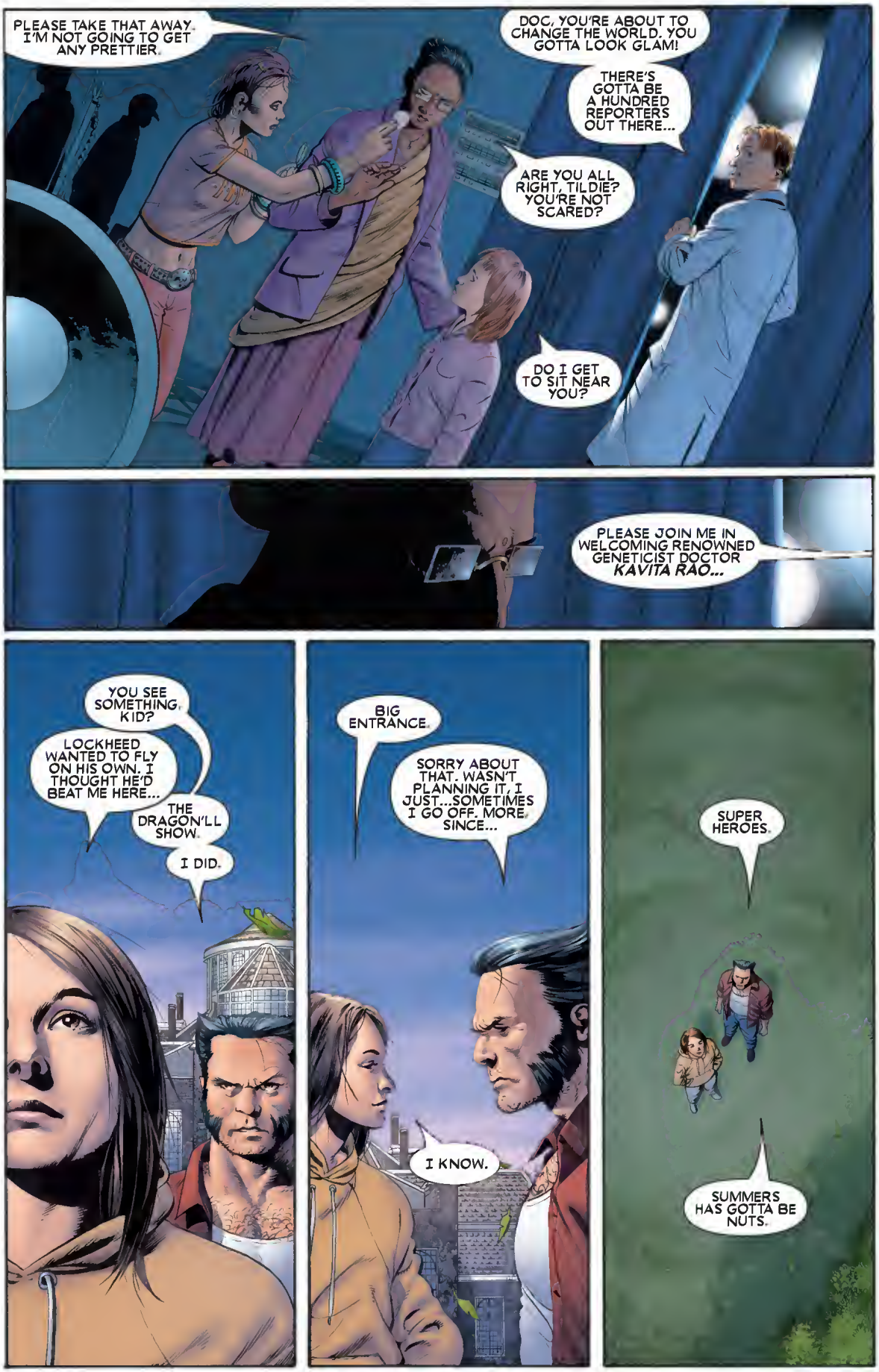

...AND I STILL RATE BELOW A CORPSE.


"AND IN FRONT OF THE STUDENTS!"
AS IF EMMA'S LITTLE GAME YESTERDAY DIDN'T WIND THEM UP ENOUGH, THEY HAVE TO SEE THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER!
YOU TWO SHOULD BE LONG PAST THAT NONSENSE! WHERE ON EARTH DID IT COME FROM?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'M NOT APOLOGIZING TO LOGAN. AND I WOULDN'T ACCEPT ONE IN RETURN.
SCOTT, YOU'RE ACTING HEAD OF THE --
IT WAS INEXCUSABLE, I AGREE. AND IT'S GOING TO MAKE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ALL THE MORE ABSURD.
BUT I'M GOING TO SAY IT ANYWAY.

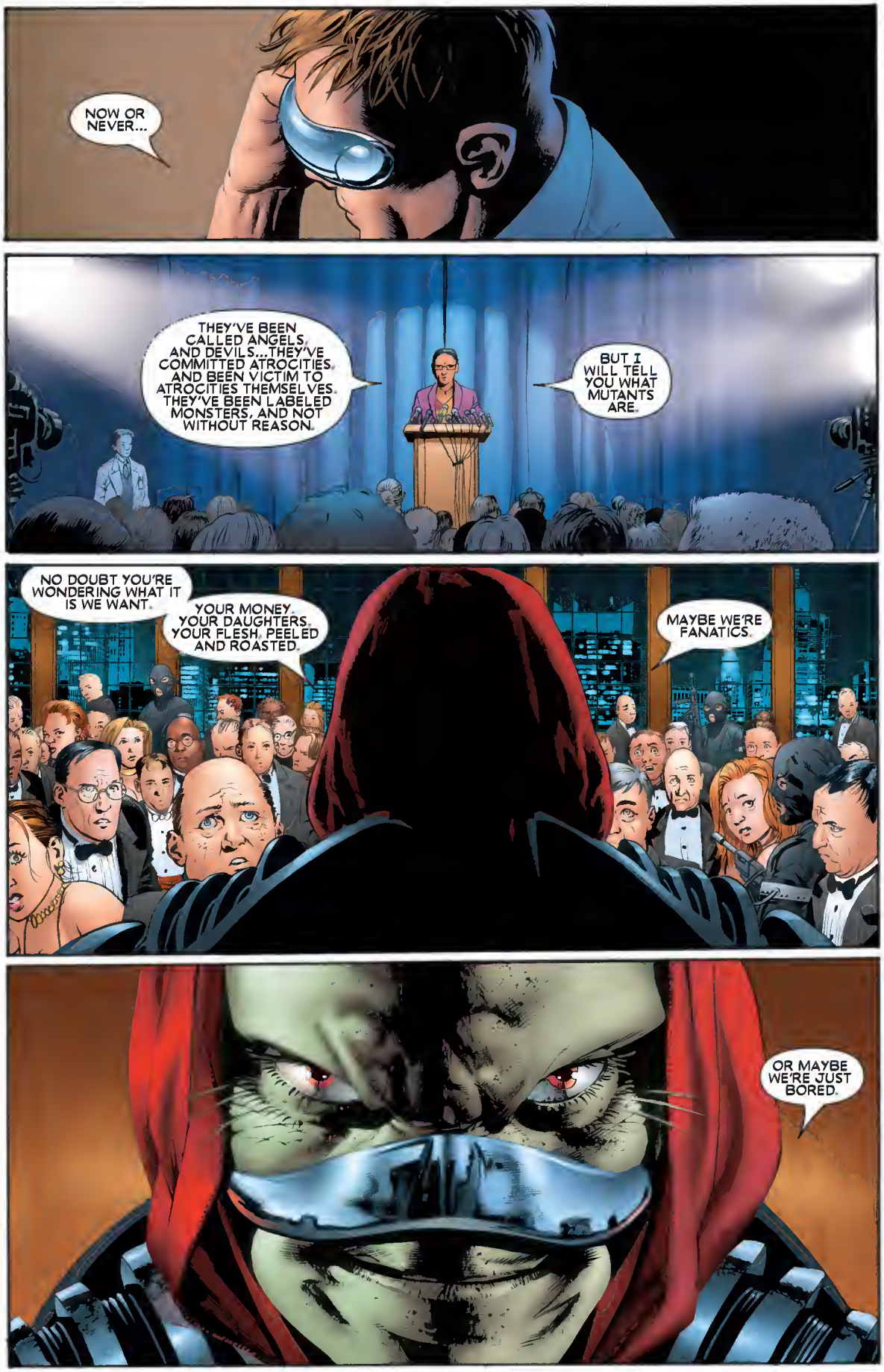

WE'RE A TEAM.
WE'RE A SUPER HERO TEAM.
AND I THINK IT'S TIME WE STARTED ACTING LIKE ONE.
HO, WHOA, WAIT...
IS THIS GONNA BE ABOUT TIGHTS?
IT'S ABOUT EVERYTHING. TRUTH. PERCEPTION...
WE'VE SAVED THE WORLD--WORLDS. EVEN--TIME AND AGAIN. THAT'S THE TRUTH. THAT'S WHAT WE DO.
BUT THE PERCEPTION IS THAT WE'RE FREAKS. OR WORSE. THAT WE'RE MAGNETOS WAITING TO HAPPEN.
WE'VE BEEN TAKING IT ON THE CHIN SO LONG, JUST TRYING TO KEEP FROM BEING WIPED OUT, I THINK WE'VE FORGOTTEN THAT WE HAVE A PURPOSE.
I KNOW THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS FORGOTTEN.
ACK! THIS IS--IS THIS LIKE A THEME THING, US BEING SO BIG?
ACTUALLY, THAT'S ME.
I PROGRAMMED THE DANGER ROOM TO REPLICATE HAWAII BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD RELAX OUR COMBATANTS. IT APPEARS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT SCALE.


REMEMBER WHEN THIS PLACE WAS JUST FLAME-THROWERS AND ROTATING KNIVES? I MISS THAT.
CAN WE PLEASE LET SCOTT FINISH, PEOPLE?
NOW I HAVE CLOUD-HAIR.
THE POINT IS SIMPLY THIS--WE NEED TO GET INTO THE WORLD. SAVING LIVES, HELPING WITH DISASTER RELIEF...WE NEED TO PRESENT OURSELVES AS A TEAM LIKE ANY OTHER.
AVENGERS. FANTASTIC FOUR--THEY DON'T GET CHASED THROUGH THE STREETS WITH TORCHES.
HERE COME THE TIGHTS...
SORRY, LOGAN. SUPER HEROES WEAR COSTUMES.
AND QUITE FRANKLY, ALL THE BLACK LEATHER IS MAKING PEOPLE NERVOUS.
OKAY, I OFFICIALLY REALLY, *REALLY* DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
I'M NOT A FIGHTER, NOT LIKE YOU GUYS.
YOU'VE BEEN IN IT PLENTY, KID. I'D TAKE YOU AT MY BACK ANY DAY.
BUT YOU'RE *NOT* A FIGHTER. YOUR POWER ISN'T AGGRESSIVE, IT'S PROTECTIVE. THAT'S GOOD TO SHOW. AND PEOPLE *LIKE* YOU.


HERE WE ARE...
HANK'S ARTICULATE AS ANYTHING, BUT WHAT PEOPLE SEE IS MOSTLY...WELL, A BEAST. EMMA'S A FORMER VILLAIN, LOGAN'S A THUG.
BORN AND BRED.
AND ME... I CAN LEAD A TEAM.
BUT I HAVEN'T LOOKED ANYBODY IN THE EYE SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN.
SO I'M, WHAT--A P.R. STUNT?
YES, OUR OWN POSTER CHILD. ISN'T IT SWEET?
'THE NONTHREATENING SHADOWCAT', OR 'SPRITE', OR 'ARIEL' OR WHATEVER INCREDIBLY UNIMPRESSIVE NAME YOU'RE USING NOWADAYS.
EMMA, SHUT UP.
YOU ALL MAY HAVE PERFECTLY GOOD REASONS FOR NOT WANTING TO DO THIS. BUT YOU'RE THE TEAM I CHOSE.
SO THINK ABOUT IT.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DYING TO SEE THE OUTFITS?

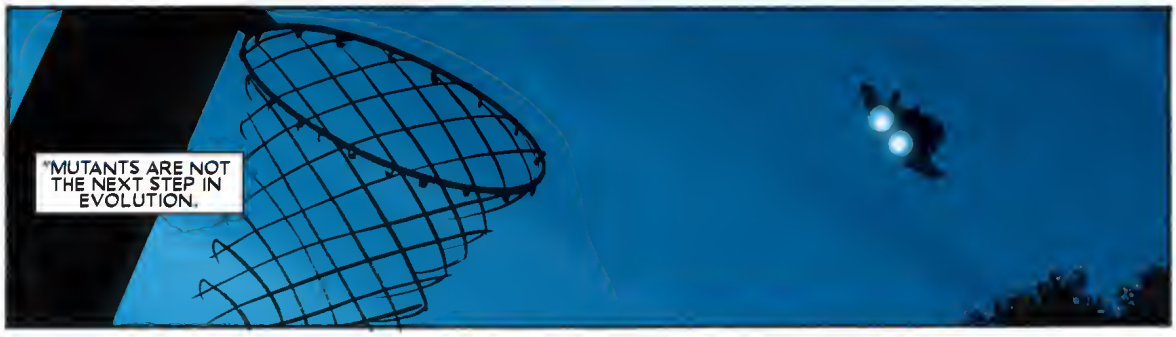

PLEASE TAKE THAT AWAY. I'M NOT GOING TO GET ANY PRETTIER.
DOC, YOU'RE ABOUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD. YOU GOTTA LOOK GLAM!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A HUNDRED REPORTERS OUT THERE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TILDIE? YOU'RE NOT SCARED?
DO I GET TO SIT NEAR YOU?
PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING RENOWNED GENETICIST DOCTOR *KAVITA RAO*...
YOU SEE SOMETHING, KID?
LOCKHEED WANTED TO FLY ON HIS OWN. I THOUGHT HE'D BEAT ME HERE...
THE DRAGON'LL SHOW.
I DID.
BIG ENTRANCE.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. WASN'T PLANNING IT, I JUST...SOMETIMES I GO OFF. MORE SINCE...
I KNOW.
SUPER HEROES.
SUMMERS HAS GOTTA BE NUTS.

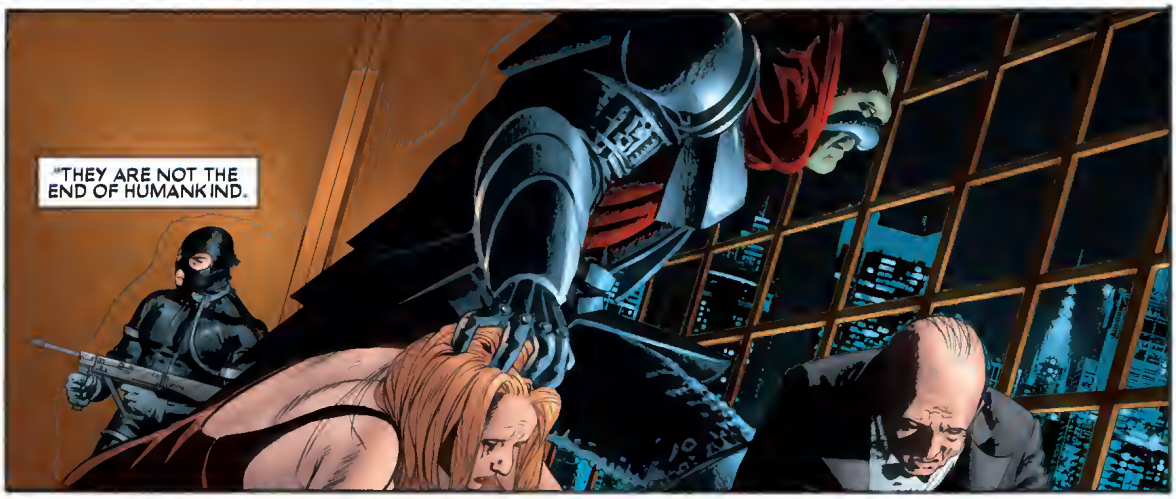

WHAT IS A MUTANT?
EVERYBODY ON THE GROUND! NOW! NOW!
YOU WANNA BULLET? YOU WANNA BULLET IN YOUR SKULL?
-- WORD YET ON THE HOSTAGE SITUATION IN THE CHAPMAN BUILDING, BUT THE FBI HAVE CORDONED OFF A FOUR BLOCK RADIUS --

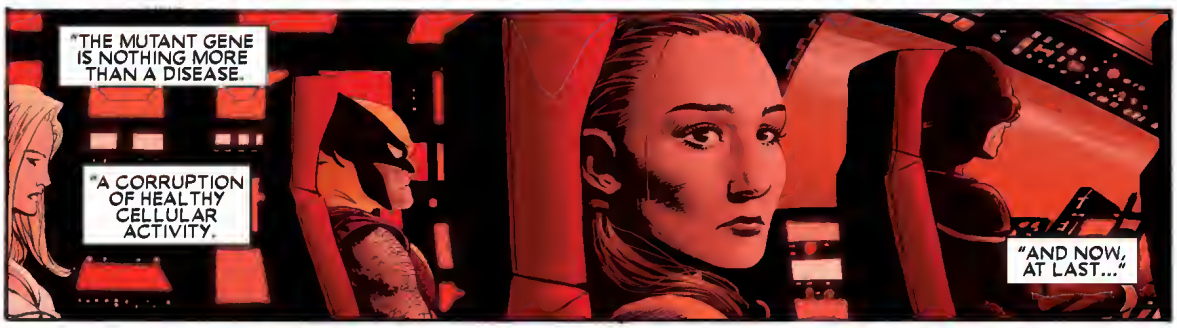

NOW OR NEVER...
THEY'VE BEEN CALLED ANGELS, AND DEVILS... THEY'VE COMMITTED ATROCITIES, AND BEEN VICTIM TO ATROCITIES THEMSELVES. THEY'VE BEEN LABELED MONSTERS, AND NOT WITHOUT REASON.
BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT MUTANTS ARE.
NO DOUBT YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT IT IS WE WANT.
YOUR MONEY. YOUR DAUGHTERS. YOUR FLESH, PEELED AND ROASTED.
MAYBE WE'RE FANATICS.
OR MAYBE WE'RE JUST BORED.

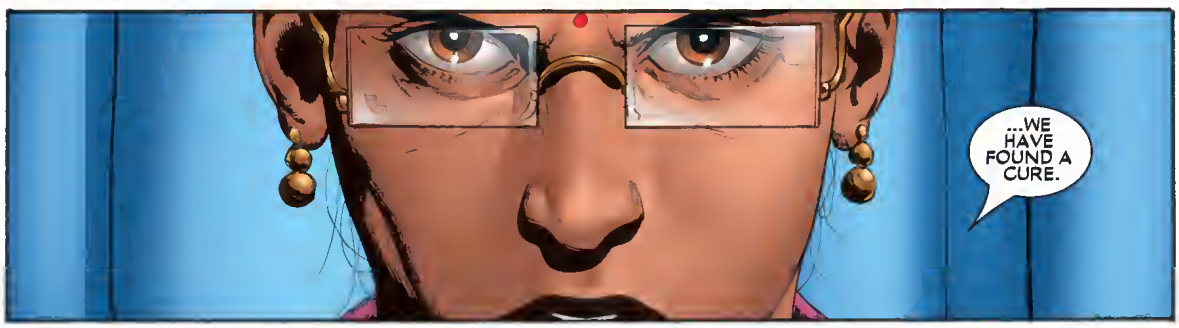

MUTANTS ARE PEOPLE. NO BETTER OR WORSE BY NATURE THAN ANYBODY ELSE. JUST PEOPLE.
PEOPLE WITH A DISEASE.
SNIKT!
TIME TO MAKE NICE WITH THE PUBLIC, EH, SUMMERS?
WE HAVE TO DO MORE THAN THAT, LOGAN.


WE HAVE TO ASTONISH THEM.







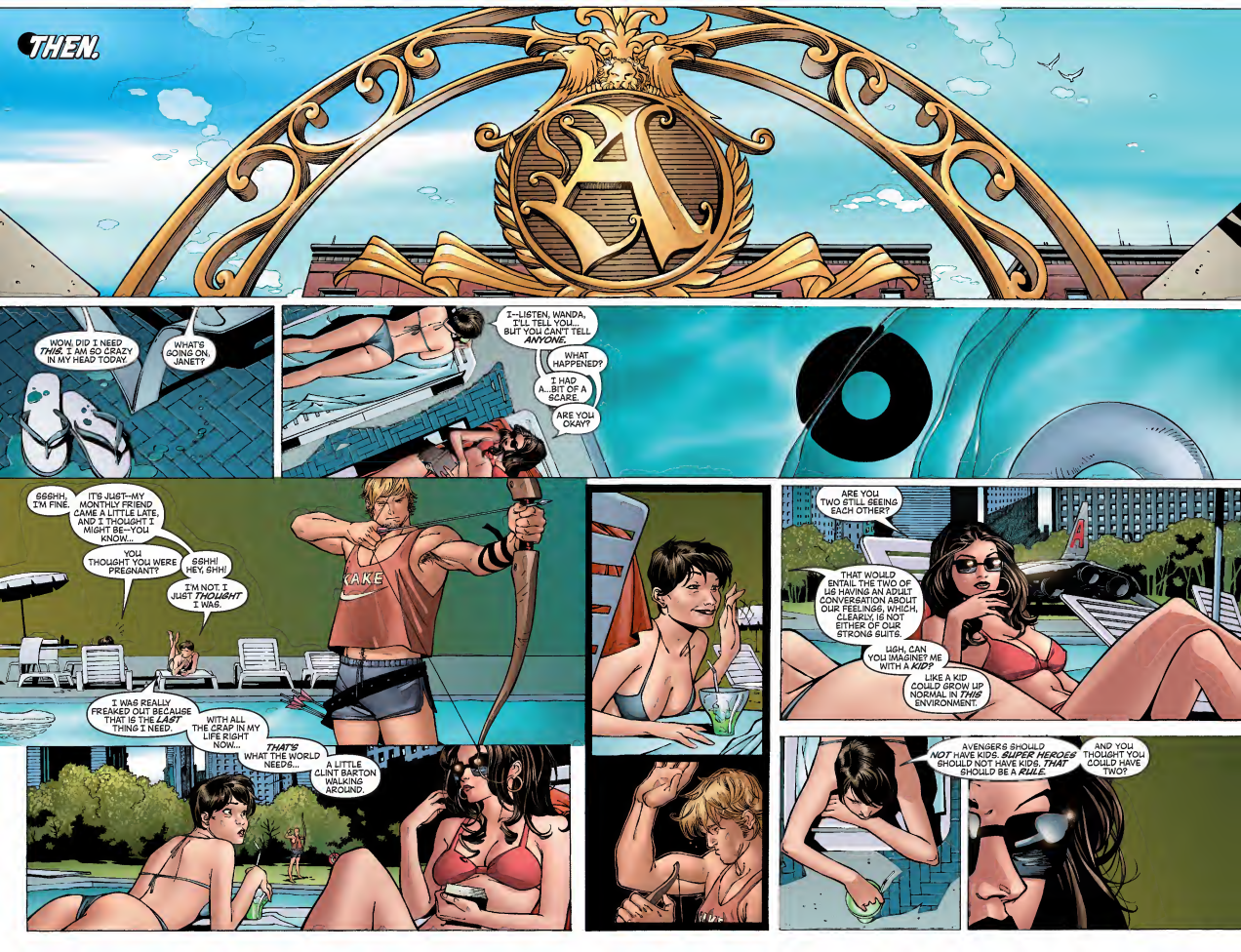


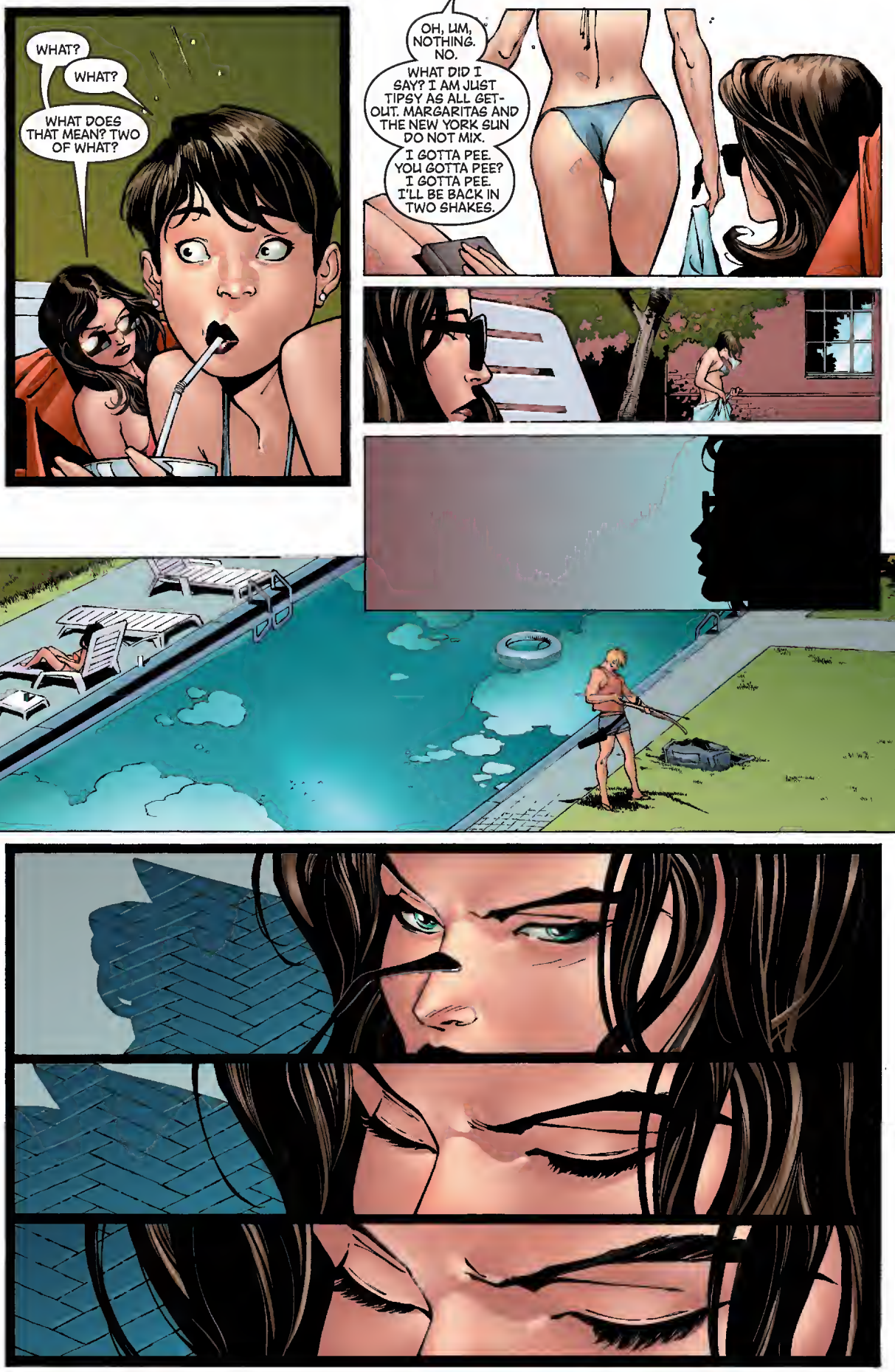
WHEDON • CASSADAY

MARTIN • ELIOPOULOS • MOORE • SEDLMEIER • MARTS • QUESADA • BUCKLEY



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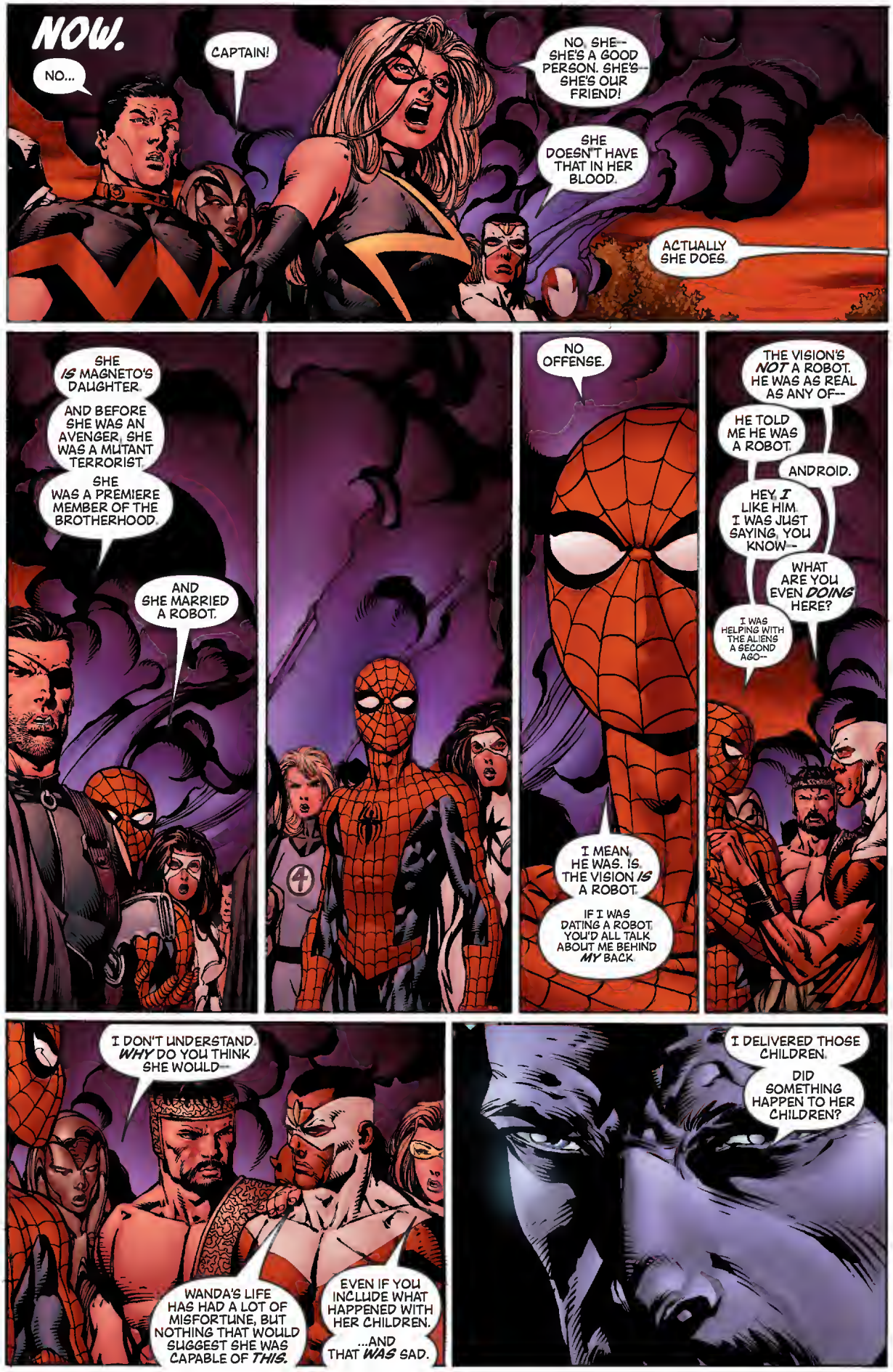

THEN.
WOW. DID I NEED THIS. I AM SO CRAZY IN MY HEAD TODAY.
WHAT'S GOING ON, JANET?
I--LISTEN, WANDA, I'LL TELL YOU... BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
I HAD A...BIT OF A SCARE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
SSSHH, I'M FINE.
IT'S JUST--MY MONTHLY FRIEND CAME A LITTLE LATE, AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE--YOU KNOW...
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE PREGNANT?
SSHH! HEY, SHH!
I'M NOT. I JUST THOUGHT I WAS.
I WAS REALLY FREAKED OUT BECAUSE THAT IS THE LAST THING I NEED.
WITH ALL THE CRAP IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS...
A LITTLE CLINT BARTON WALKING AROUND.
ARE YOU TWO STILL SEEING EACH OTHER?
THAT WOULD ENTAIL THE TWO OF US HAVING AN ADULT CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR FEELINGS, WHICH, CLEARLY, IS NOT EITHER OF OUR STRONG SUITS.
UGH. CAN YOU IMAGINE? ME WITH A KID?
LIKE A KID COULD GROW UP NORMAL IN THIS ENVIRONMENT.
AVENGERS SHOULD NOT HAVE KIDS. SUPER HEROES SHOULD NOT HAVE KIDS. THAT SHOULD BE A RULE.
AND YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD HAVE TWO?


WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? TWO OF WHAT?
OH, UM, NOTHING. NO.
WHAT DID I SAY? I AM JUST TIPSY AS ALL GET-OUT. MARGARITAS AND THE NEW YORK SUN DO NOT MIX.
I GOTTA PEE. YOU GOTTA PEE? I GOTTA PEE. I'LL BE BACK IN TWO SHAKES.


NOW.
PLEASE, DOCTOR STRANGE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US?


MOST OF YOU I HAVE MET, BUT OTHERS I HAVE NOT.
MY NAME IS DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE.
I AM A PRACTITIONER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, AND I HAVE ACHIEVED MASTER LEVEL.
I AM TALKING TO YOU FROM THE ASTRAL PLANE--A METAPHYSICAL DIMENSION LAYERED ON TOP OF THE ONE IN WHICH YOU LIVE.
I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CASTING A HANDFUL OF CLOAKING SPELLS AROUND THIS ENTIRE AREA.
I HAVE DONE ALL THIS TO KEEP THE UNWANTED EYES AND EARS OF THOSE WHO WOULD CHOOSE TO *HARM* YOU *BLIND*... AT LEAST MOMENTARILY.
I FEAR WE DO NOT HAVE LONG.
CLEARLY YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE AND GRAVE DANGER FROM A MAGIC FORCE OF IMMENSE POWER.
I AM TRULY SORRY I COULD NOT BE HERE TO STOP THIS BEFORE IT STARTED.
BUT A GREAT DEAL OF MY STUDIES INCLUDE INTENSIVE MEDITATIONS.
I WAS IN A PLACE WHERE I COULD NOT *"SEE"* WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO YOU UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.
BUT NOW I SEE THAT THE MAGICS HAVE BEEN MOLESTED, IN AN ATTACK AIMED AT YOU.
DOCTOR, PLEASE!
WHO DID THIS? WHO MURDERED OUR TEAMMATES?
THE EVENTS OF THE PAST DAY. THE DEVASTATION. THE BEDLAM.
I MUST ASK YOU...
...IS THERE ANYONE THE AVENGERS HAVE DEALT WITH WHO HAS *THIS* LEVEL OF MYSTIC POWER?
SOMEONE WHO COULD ORCHESTRATE THIS LEVEL OF CHAOS?

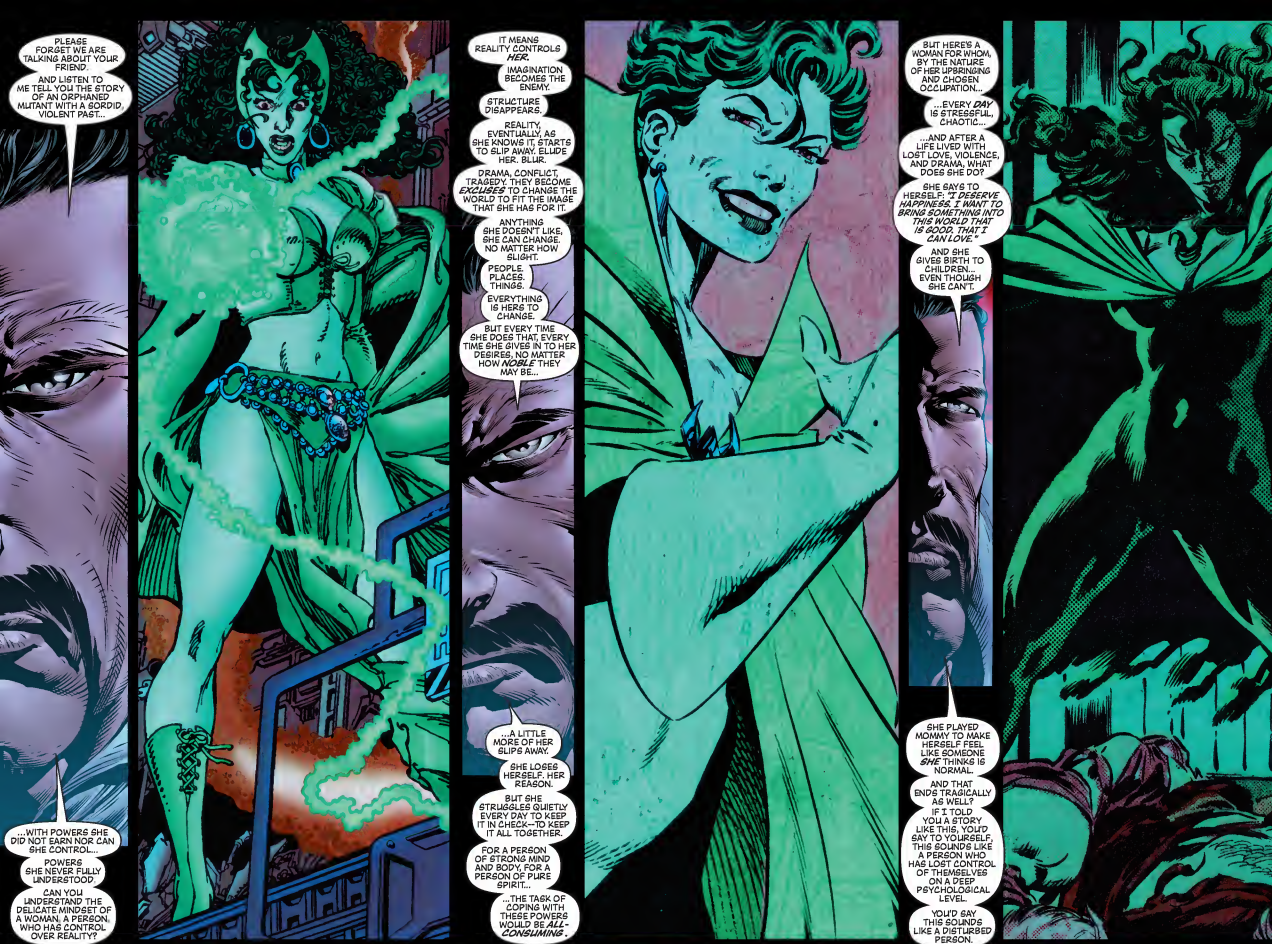

THEN.
AGATHA?
WANDA MAXIMOFF.
YOU GAVE ME A BIT OF A FRIGHT JUST NOW.
COME SIT. WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN A GOOD LONG TIME.
AGATHA. I--
WHY DO PEOPLE THINK I ONCE HAD TWO CHILDREN?
WHERE ARE MY CHILDREN?
SIT DOWN, WANDA.
SIT DOWN AND WE'LL HAVE A--
TELL ME WHERE MY CHILDREN ARE!

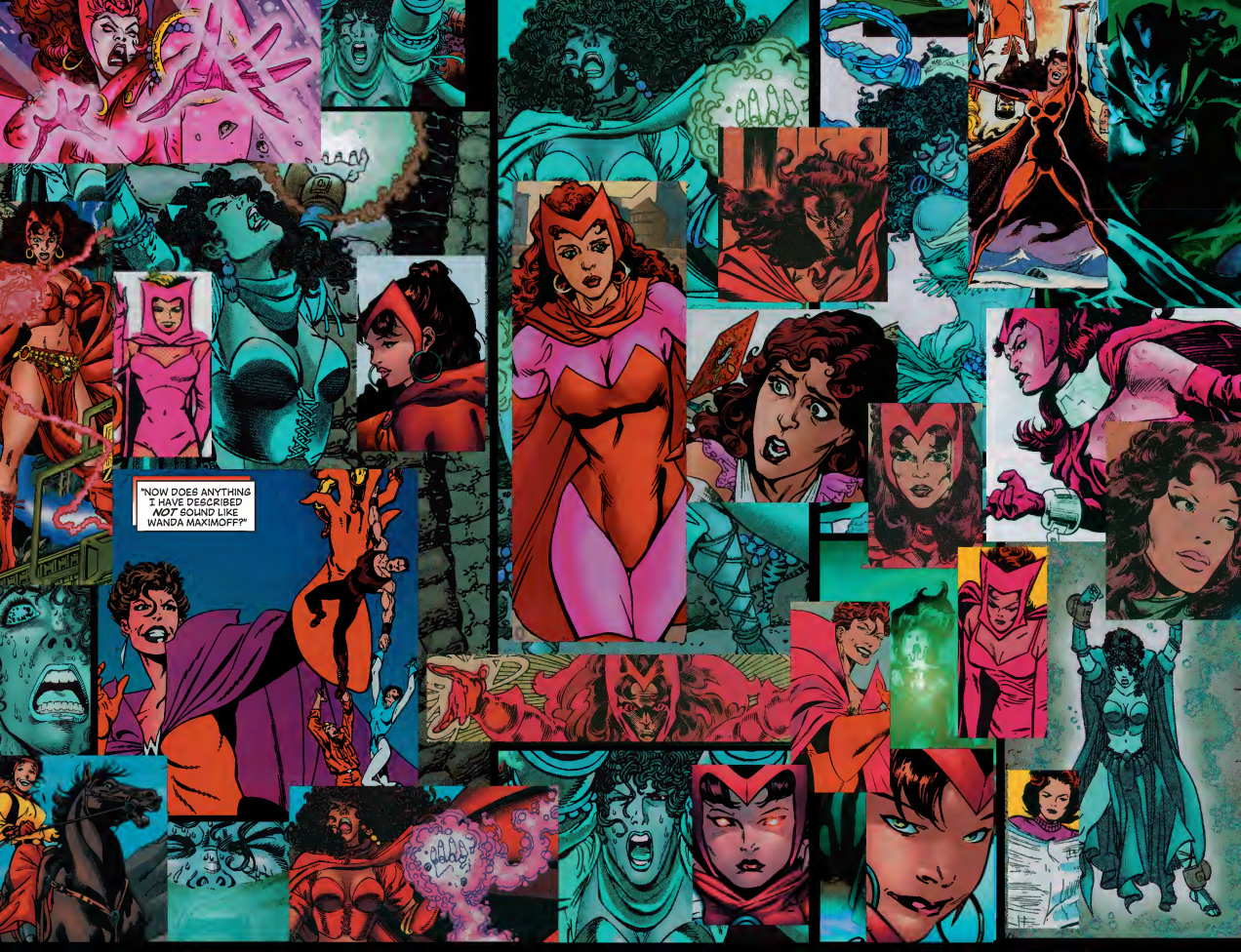

NOW.
NO...
CAPTAIN!
NO. SHE-- SHE'S A GOOD PERSON. SHE'S-- SHE'S OUR FRIEND!
SHE DOESN'T HAVE THAT IN HER BLOOD.
ACTUALLY SHE DOES.
SHE IS MAGNETO'S DAUGHTER.
AND BEFORE SHE WAS AN AVENGER, SHE WAS A MUTANT TERRORIST.
SHE WAS A PREMIERE MEMBER OF THE BROTHERHOOD.
AND SHE MARRIED A ROBOT.
NO OFFENSE.
I MEAN, HE WAS. IS. THE VISION IS A ROBOT.
IF I WAS DATING A ROBOT, YOU'D ALL TALK ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK.
THE VISION'S NOT A ROBOT. HE WAS AS REAL AS ANY OF--
HE TOLD ME HE WAS A ROBOT.
ANDROID.
HEY, I LIKE HIM. I WAS JUST SAYING, YOU KNOW--
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING HERE?
I WAS HELPING WITH THE ALIENS A SECOND AGO--
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DO YOU THINK SHE WOULD--
WANDA'S LIFE HAS HAD A LOT OF MISFORTUNE, BUT NOTHING THAT WOULD SUGGEST SHE WAS CAPABLE OF THIS.
EVEN IF YOU INCLUDE WHAT HAPPENED WITH HER CHILDREN.
...AND THAT WAS SAD.
I DELIVERED THOSE CHILDREN.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HER CHILDREN?


THEY--IT, UM, IT ENDS UP THAT SHE, UM, CONJURED THEM INTO EXISTENCE.
(IF THAT'S THE WORD.)
THEY WEREN'T ACTUALLY... REAL.
SHE CREATED THEM WITH HER HEX POWERS. SHE WILLED THEM INTO EXISTENCE.
SHE WANTED THEM VERY BADLY. IS HOW IT WAS TOLD TO ME.
SHE, IN A WAY, TRICKED HERSELF INTO GIVING BIRTH TO THEM. BUT THEY--THEY DIDN'T REALLY EXIST.
AGATHA HARKNESS--THAT WOMAN--HER MENTOR...
AGATHA. SHE--SHE WAS THE ONE WHO FIGURED OUT WHAT THE CHILDREN REALLY WERE.
SO SHE "ERASED" THEM.
SHE TOOK CARE OF IT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU PEOPLE COME TO ME WHEN THIS HAPPENED?
DOCTOR, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
PLEASE, PLEASE HEAR ME OUT. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...
THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN UNEASY STRUCTURE TO MAXIMOFF'S POWER.
AS A MUTANT--SHE WAS BORN WITH HER POWERS OVER MAGIC.
HER "HEX" POWER.
IT WASN'T EARNED THROUGH SPIRITUALITY.
IT WAS GIVEN TO HER WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING OF ITS CONSEQUENCE.
BUT MAYBE THE RULES FOR HER DON'T APP--
I'M SORRY, BUT, DIDN'T SHE HAVE TROUBLE CONTROLLING HER POWERS IN THE PAST?
YES.


WAIT! IF--IF IT'S CHAOS MAGIC, THEN IT CAN BE *REVERSED*.
YOU CAN BRING THEM *BACK!* PLEASE
DOCTOR, PLEASE, REVERSE THIS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
BRING BACK SCOTT! BRING BACK HAWKEYE! BRING BACK--
I--I'M SORRY IF I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR.
MAGIC ISN'T AN ILLUSION.
THIS-- TODAY--THIS WAS NOT A MAGIC *TRICK*.
THESE EVENTS-- THEY HAPPENED. YOUR FRIENDS HAVE--
THEY *ARE* DEAD.
I HAD TRIED YEARS AGO TO TAKE WANDA ON AS A STUDENT.
BUT HER OBLIGATIONS TO HER FAMILY AND TO YOU, HER TEAMMATES, DISTRACTED HER.
I AM UNSURE AS TO THE *LEVEL* OF HER POWER, BUT HER HEXES ALWAYS SEEMED MUCH TOO *LIMITED* TO CREATE WHAT HAS GONE ON HERE.
WE SHOULD TELL YOU, DOCTOR. NOT TOO LONG AGO... SHE TAPPED INTO A POWER SOURCE THAT SHE CALLED-- SHE CALLS IT--
THE CHAOS MAGICS.
YES. SHE CAN CONTROL THE PROBABILITIES OF REALITY AND--
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT?

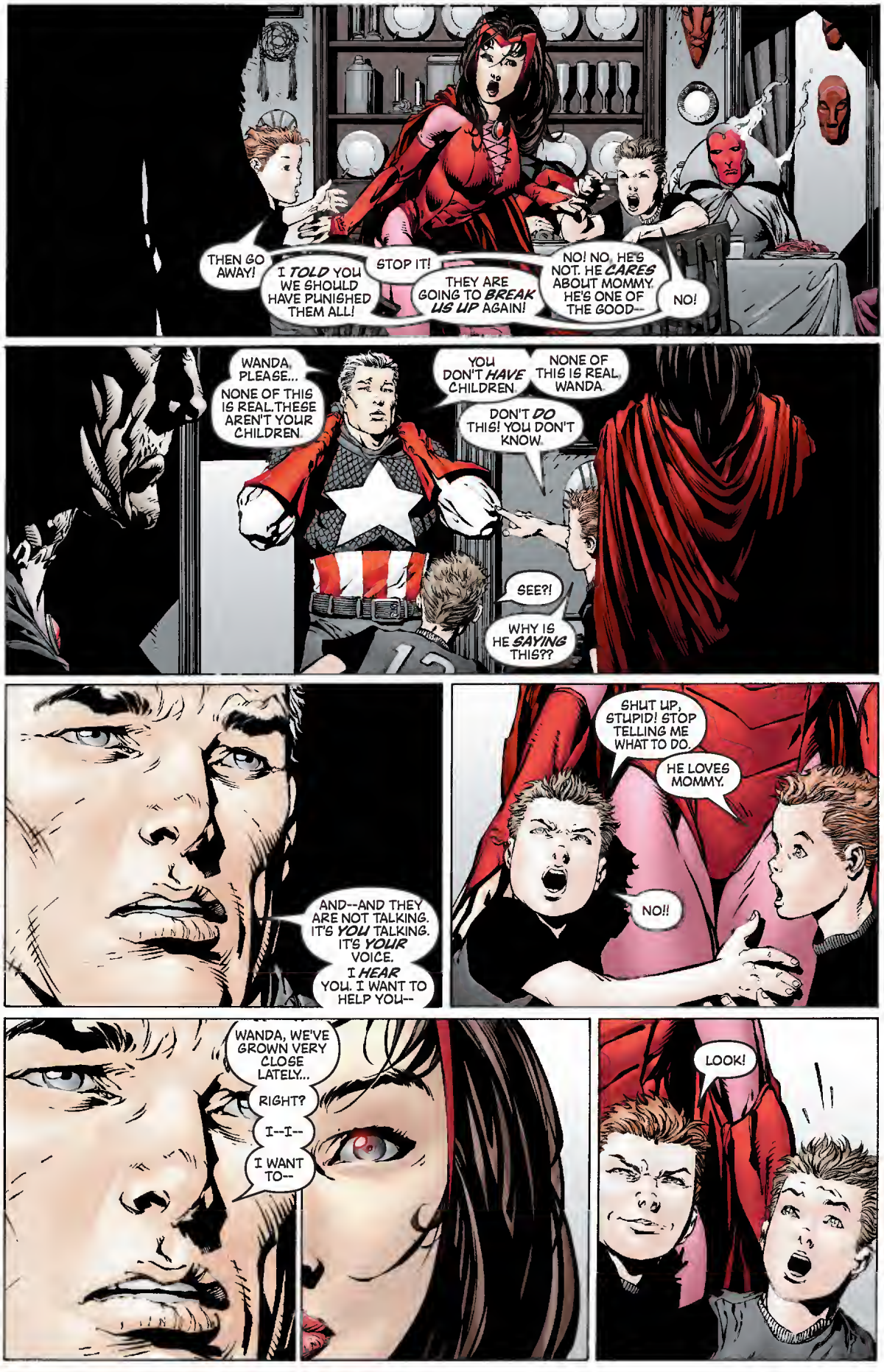

STOP! NO!! NO, WANDA DID NOT DO THIS!
THEN WHERE IS SHE, CAROL? SHE'S THE ONLY ONE NOT HERE!
THOR ISN'T.
YEAH, AND DIDN'T YOU GUYS FIGHT THAT LOKI GUY ONCE? COULD IT BE THAT LOKI GUY?
GOD OF MISCHIEF.
WANDA DID NOT DO THIS! AND, REALLY, I'M OFFENDED THAT YOU--
MAGNETO'S DAUGHTER? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
YOU PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT SHE KILLED THE VISION? THAT SHE KILLED HER OWN HUSBAND?
YOU'RE WRONG.
WANDA WAS WITH ME TODAY AT THE U.N.
SHE WAS RIGHT THERE.
SHE WAS NOT THE ONE WHO DID THIS.
THERE'S A GREAT POSSIBILITY, IRON MAN, THAT SHE MAY NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF WHAT SHE IS DOING.
DOCTOR, I'M SORRY. I HAVE AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR YOU...
...BUT WE CANNOT ACCUSE A TEAMMATE OF THIS KIND OF TERRORISM.
I NEED MORE THAN YOUR THEORY.
MY THEORY...
LISTEN TO ME. THIS CHAOS MAGIC-- THE SOURCE OF HER NEW "REALITY-ALTERING POWERS..."
I AM THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS--AND I AM TELLING YOU...
...THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS CHAOS MAGIC.


PLEASE FORGET WE ARE TALKING ABOUT YOUR FRIEND.
AND LISTEN TO ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF AN ORPHANED MUTANT WITH A SORDID, VIOLENT PAST...
...WITH POWERS SHE DID NOT EARN NOR CAN SHE CONTROL...
POWERS SHE NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THE DELICATE MINDSET OF A WOMAN, A PERSON, WHO HAS CONTROL OVER REALITY?
IT MEANS REALITY CONTROLS *HER.*
IMAGINATION BECOMES THE ENEMY.
STRUCTURE DISAPPEARS.
REALITY, EVENTUALLY, AS SHE KNOWS IT, STARTS TO SLIP AWAY. ELUDE HER. BLUR.
DRAMA, CONFLICT, TRAGEDY THEY BECOME *EXCUSES* TO CHANGE THE WORLD TO FIT THE IMAGE THAT SHE HAS FOR IT.
ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T LIKE, SHE CAN CHANGE. NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT.
PEOPLE. PLACES. THINGS.
EVERYTHING IS HERS TO CHANGE.
BUT EVERY TIME SHE DOES THAT, EVERY TIME SHE GIVES IN TO HER DESIRES, NO MATTER HOW *NOBLE* THEY MAY BE...
...A LITTLE MORE OF HER SLIPS AWAY.
SHE LOSES HERSELF. HER REASON.
BUT SHE STRUGGLES QUIETLY EVERY DAY TO KEEP IT IN CHECK--TO KEEP IT ALL TOGETHER.
FOR A PERSON OF STRONG MIND AND BODY, FOR A PERSON OF PURE SPIRIT...
...THE TASK OF COPING WITH THESE POWERS WOULD BE *ALL-CONSUMING*.
BUT HERE'S A WOMAN FOR WHOM, BY THE NATURE OF HER UPBRINGING AND CHOSEN OCCUPATION...
...EVERY *DAY* IS STRESSFUL, CHAOTIC...
...AND AFTER A LIFE LIVED WITH LOST LOVE, VIOLENCE, AND DRAMA, WHAT DOES SHE DO?
SHE SAYS TO HERSELF: *"I DESERVE HAPPINESS. I WANT TO BRING SOMETHING INTO THIS WORLD THAT IS GOOD, THAT I CAN LOVE."*
AND SHE GIVES BIRTH TO CHILDREN... EVEN THOUGH SHE CAN'T.
SHE PLAYED MOMMY TO MAKE HERSELF FEEL LIKE SOMEONE *SHE* THINKS IS NORMAL.
AND THAT ENDS TRAGICALLY AS WELL?
IF I TOLD YOU A STORY LIKE THIS, YOU'D SAY TO YOURSELF, THIS SOUNDS LIKE A PERSON WHO HAS LOST CONTROL OF THEMSELVES ON A DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL LEVEL.
YOU'D SAY THIS SOUNDS LIKE A DISTURBED PERSON.


"NOW DOES ANYTHING I HAVE DESCRIBED *NOT* SOUND LIKE WANDA MAXIMOFF?"

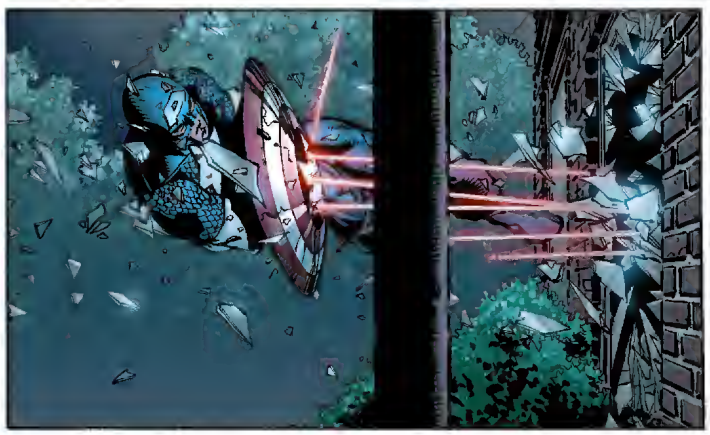

NO, NOONONO...
BUT WANDA DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HER CHILDREN.
AGATHA HARKNESS TOOK CARE OF THAT TOO.
MAYBE SHE REMEMBERED.
IF--IF THIS IS TRUE, *IF*, WHY IS SHE ATTACKING *US*?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU'RE WRONG.
I TRULY HOPE SO.
BUT I AM NOT.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
DOCTOR, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP US FIND HER?
PLEASE...
THE MAGICS CREATE A...MAP.
I CAN POINT YOU RIGHT TO HER.
BUT, I WARN YOU...
...IF THIS *IS* TRUE...
...THEN THERE IS NO WAY YOU COULD BE PREPARED FOR WHAT WE'LL SEE WHEN WE FIND HER.

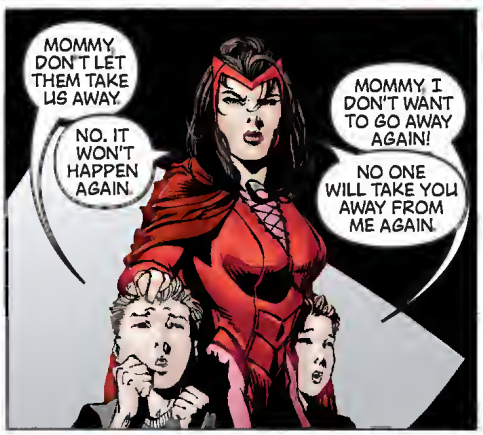

KIDS, DINNER.
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE.
YAY!
YOU KIDS PLAY NICE TODAY?
HA!
SHH!!
I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ANYTHING.
YOU TWO BEHAVE.
YES, MOMMY.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU TWO?
WANDA?
WANDA--
PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU.

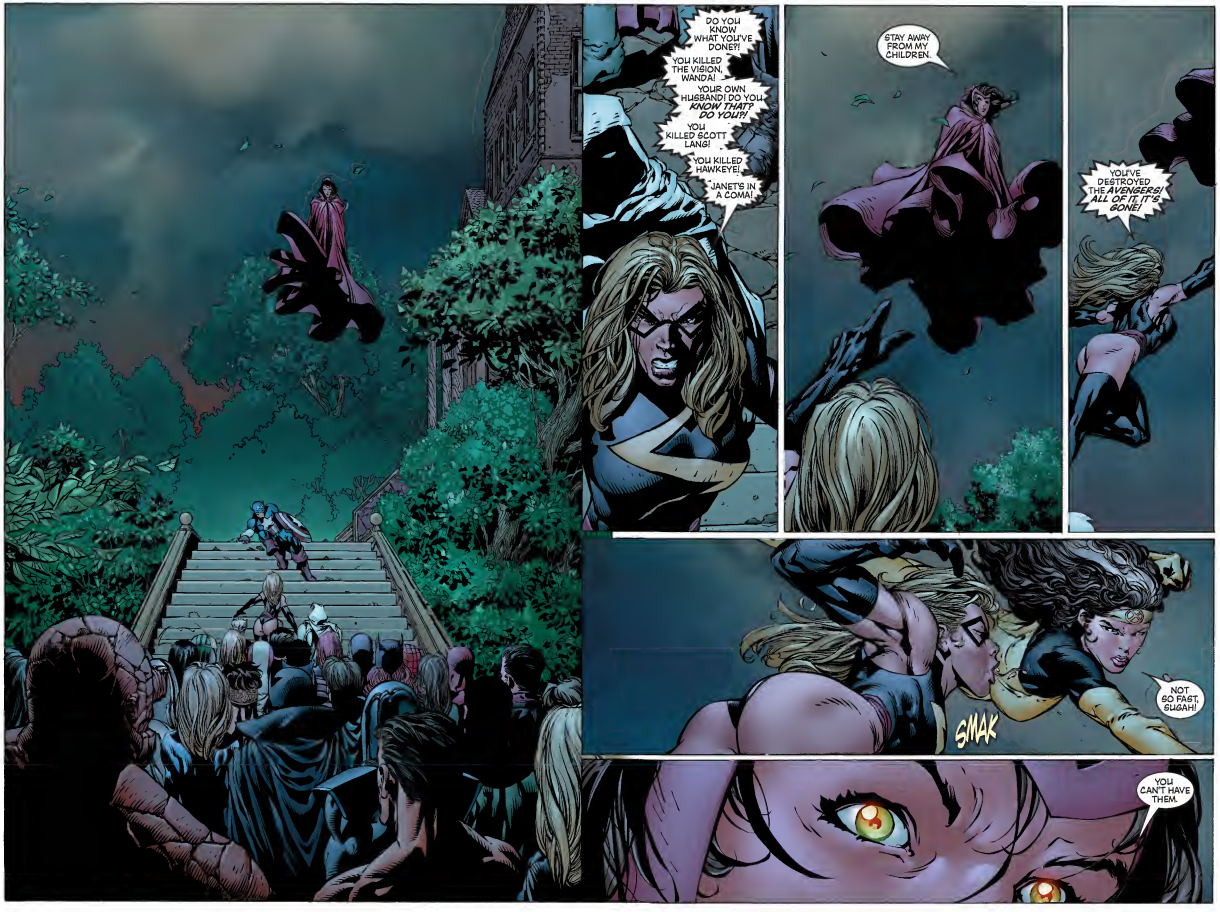

THEN GO AWAY!
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE PUNISHED THEM ALL!
STOP IT!
THEY ARE GOING TO BREAK US UP AGAIN!
NO! NO, HE'S NOT. HE CARES ABOUT MOMMY. HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD--
NO!
WANDA, PLEASE...
NONE OF THIS IS REAL. THESE AREN'T YOUR CHILDREN.
YOU DON'T HAVE CHILDREN.
NONE OF THIS IS REAL, WANDA.
DON'T DO THIS! YOU DON'T KNOW.
SEE?!
WHY IS HE SAYING THIS??
AND--AND THEY ARE NOT TALKING. IT'S YOU TALKING. IT'S YOUR VOICE. I HEAR YOU. I WANT TO HELP YOU--
SHUT UP, STUPID! STOP TELLING ME WHAT TO DO.
HE LOVES MOMMY.
NO!!
WANDA, WE'VE GROWN VERY CLOSE LATELY...
RIGHT?
I--I--
I WANT TO--
LOOK!



BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA






DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
YOU KILLED THE VISION, WANDA!
YOUR OWN HUSBAND! DO YOU KNOW THAT? DO YOU?
YOU KILLED SCOTT LANG!
YOU KILLED HAWKEYE!
JANET'S IN A COMA!
STAY AWAY FROM MY CHILDREN.
YOU'VE DESTROYED THE AVENGERS! ALL OF IT, IT'S GONE!
SMAK
NOT SO FAST, SUGAH!
YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM.

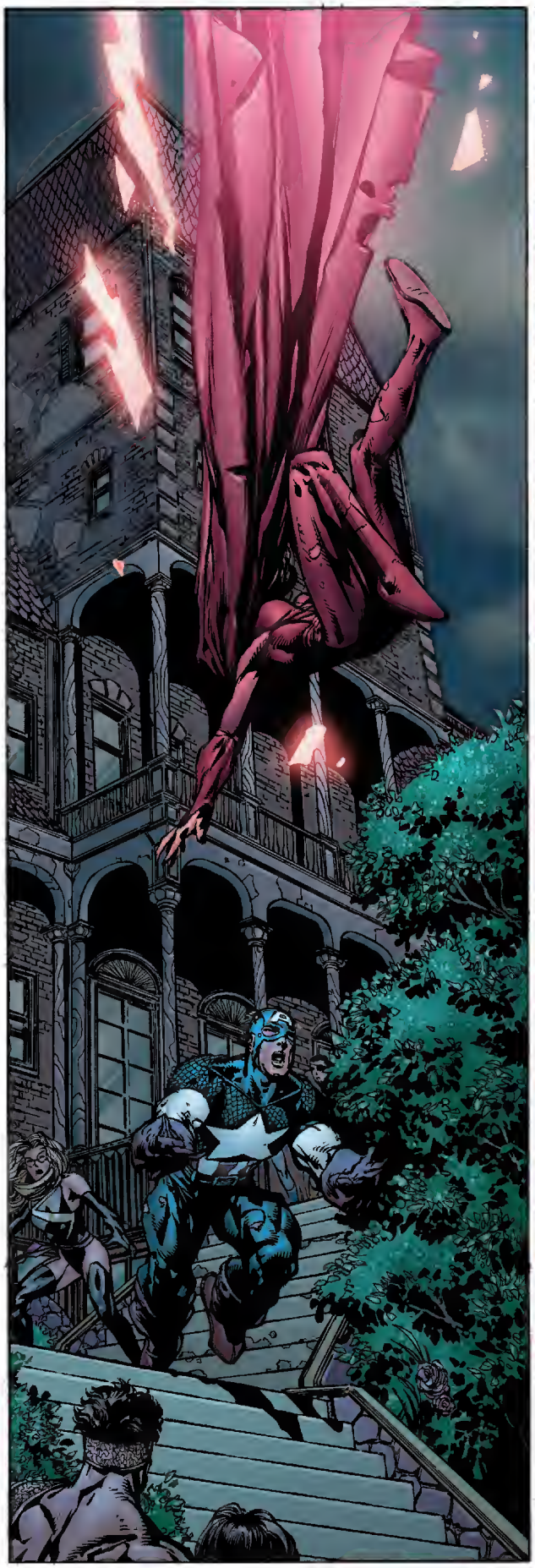



12
12
WANDA MAXIMOFF!


YOU WILL STOP THIS MADNESS, NOW!
YOU ARE HURTING YOUR FRIENDS AND HURTING YOURSELF!
THIS STOPS NOW!
NO.
YOU CAN'T TAKE MY CHILDREN AWAY FROM ME AGAIN!


SHTUNNDI ALAH AKRAYA!
MAXIMOFF!
DESTON GHUTRANTE ALAD GHURA!
REFGHO AGAMOTTO!


THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO WILL SHOW YOU THE TRUTH!
YOU WILL STOP THIS MADNESS!
THESE MAGICS ARE NOT YOURS TO ABUSE!



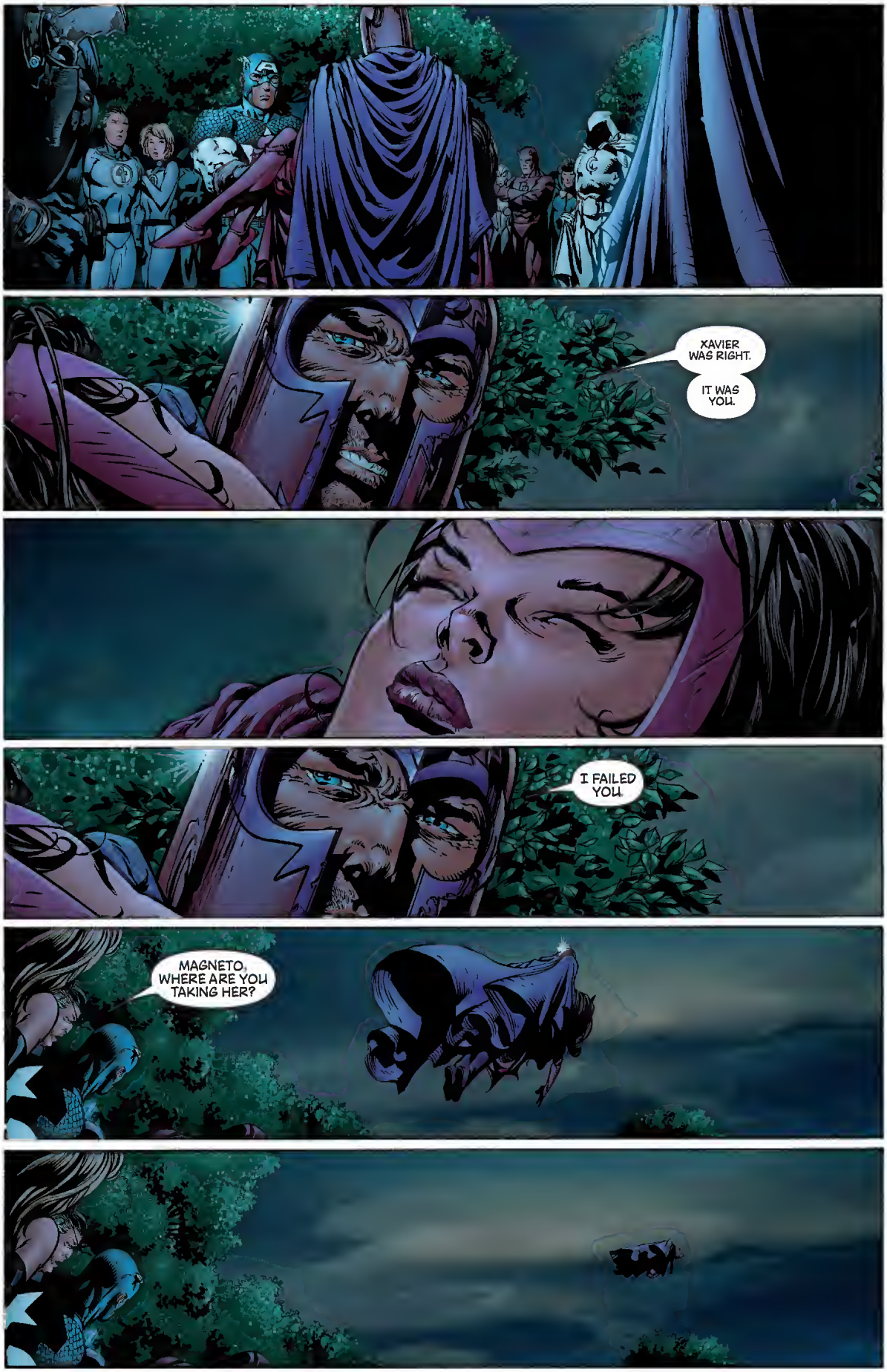

IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER WAY...
I'M SORRY.
IS SHE BREATHING?
SHE IS ALIVE. BUT SHE IS GONE.


HER MIND WAS IN A DELICATE STATE TO BEGIN WITH.


WANDA...?

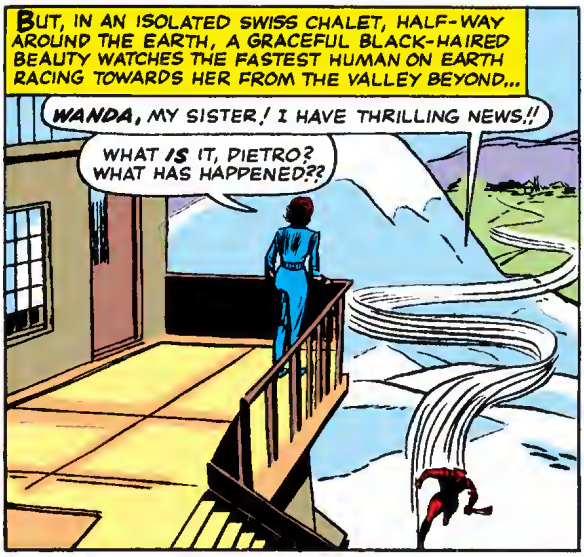

COLONEL FURY, WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
WE'LL KNOW IT WHEN WE--
WHO IS THAT, COLONEL?
AGATHA HARKNESS.
JEEZ. HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN ROTTING THERE?
LONG TIME.
CAN YOU WAKE HER UP?
SHE'S NOT ASLEEP.
HOW CAN WE HELP HER?
YOU CAN GIVE HER TO ME.


GIVE ME MY DAUGHTER.

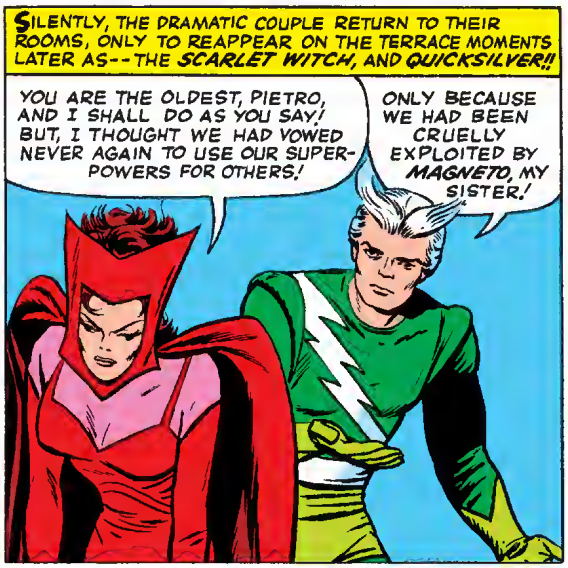

XAVIER WAS RIGHT.
IT WAS YOU.
I FAILED YOU.
MAGNETO, WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HER?

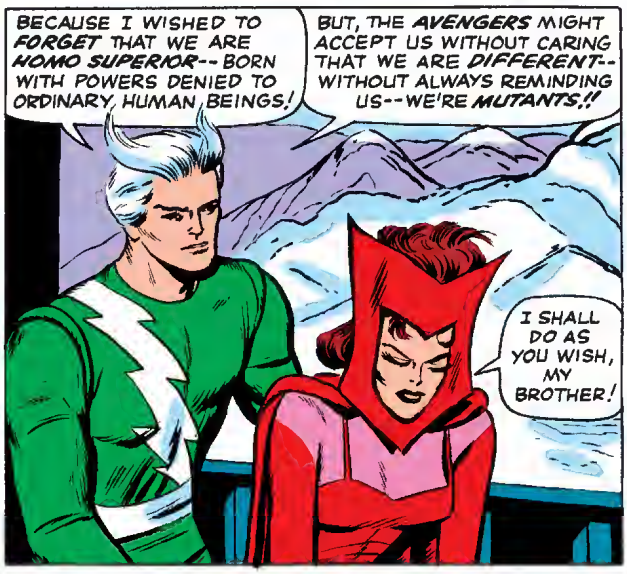


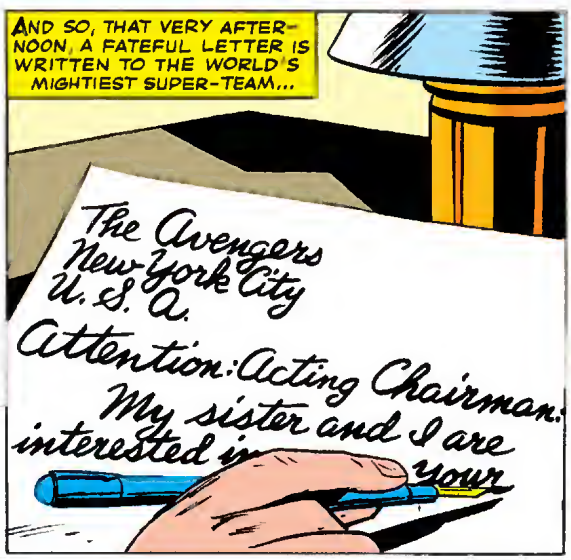
THEN.

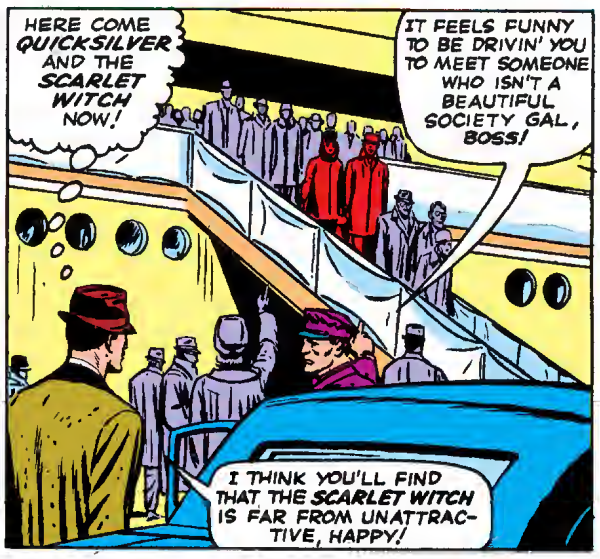

BUT, IN AN ISOLATED SWISS CHALET, HALF-WAY AROUND THE EARTH, A GRACEFUL BLACK-HAIRED BEAUTY WATCHES THE FASTEST HUMAN ON EARTH RACING TOWARDS HER FROM THE VALLEY BEYOND...
WANDA, MY SISTER! I HAVE THRILLING NEWS!!
WHAT IS IT, PIETRO? WHAT HAS HAPPENED??


SEE THE REPORT FROM AMERICA ON THE SECOND PAGE-- ABOUT THE AVENGERS!! READ IT, WANDA!
IT HAS BEEN LEARNED BY A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THE MIGHTY AVENGERS HAVE ACCEPTED THE DASHING HAWK-EYE AS A PROBATIONARY MEMBER, AND ARE CONSIDERING OTHER APPLICANTS AS REPLACEMENTS...!
THIS COULD BE OUR CHANCE, MY SISTER!

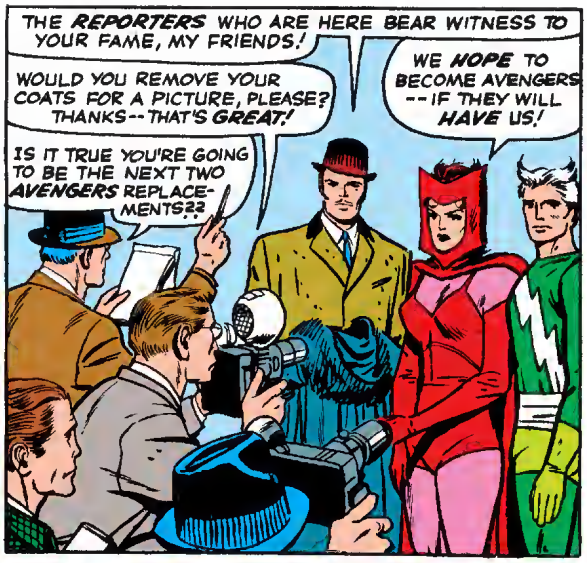

SILENTLY, THE DRAMATIC COUPLE RETURN TO THEIR ROOMS, ONLY TO REAPPEAR ON THE TERRACE MOMENTS LATER AS-- THE SCARLET WITCH, AND QUICKSILVER!!
YOU ARE THE OLDEST, PIETRO, AND I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY! BUT, I THOUGHT WE HAD VOWED NEVER AGAIN TO USE OUR SUPER-POWERS FOR OTHERS!
ONLY BECAUSE WE HAD BEEN CRUELLY EXPLOITED BY MAGNETO, MY SISTER!

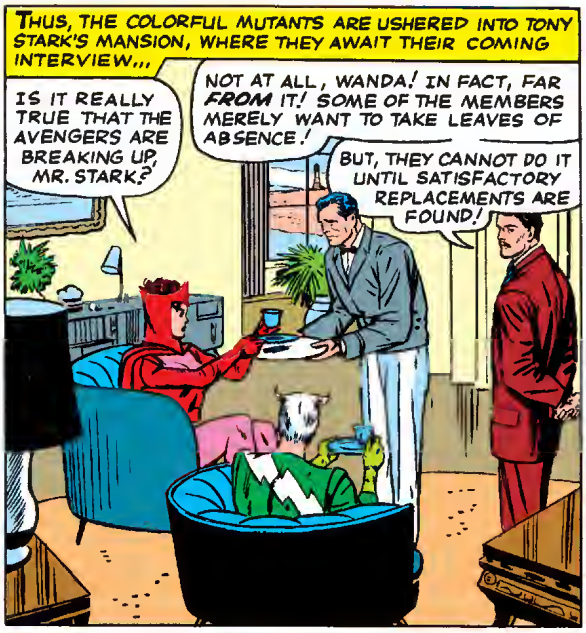

BECAUSE I WISHED TO FORGET THAT WE ARE HOMO SUPERIOR-- BORN WITH POWERS DENIED TO ORDINARY, HUMAN BEINGS!
BUT, THE AVENGERS MIGHT ACCEPT US WITHOUT CARING THAT WE ARE DIFFERENT-- WITHOUT ALWAYS REMINDING US-- WE'RE MUTANTS!!
I SHALL DO AS YOU WISH, MY BROTHER!


AND SO, THAT VERY AFTERNOON, A FATEFUL LETTER IS WRITTEN TO THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SUPER-TEAM...
The Avengers
New York City
U. S. A.
Attention: Acting Chairman:
My sister and I are
interested in
your


HERE COME QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH NOW!
IT FEELS FUNNY TO BE DRIVIN' YOU TO MEET SOMEONE WHO ISN'T A BEAUTIFUL SOCIETY GAL, BOSS!
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT THE SCARLET WITCH IS FAR FROM UNATTRACTIVE, HAPPY!


MY NAME IS ANTHONY STARK! I AM A FRIEND OF THE AVENGERS--IN FACT, THEY HOLD THEIR MEETINGS IN A BUILDING WHICH I LEASE TO THEM FOR THAT PURPOSE! THEY ASKED ME TO MEET YOU HERE AND TAKE YOU TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS!
THAT IS KIND OF YOU, MR. STARK! MY NAME IS PIETRO, AND THIS IS MY SISTER, WANDA!
PERHAPS WE ARE BETTER KNOWN AS QUICKSILVER, AND THE SCARLET WITCH!

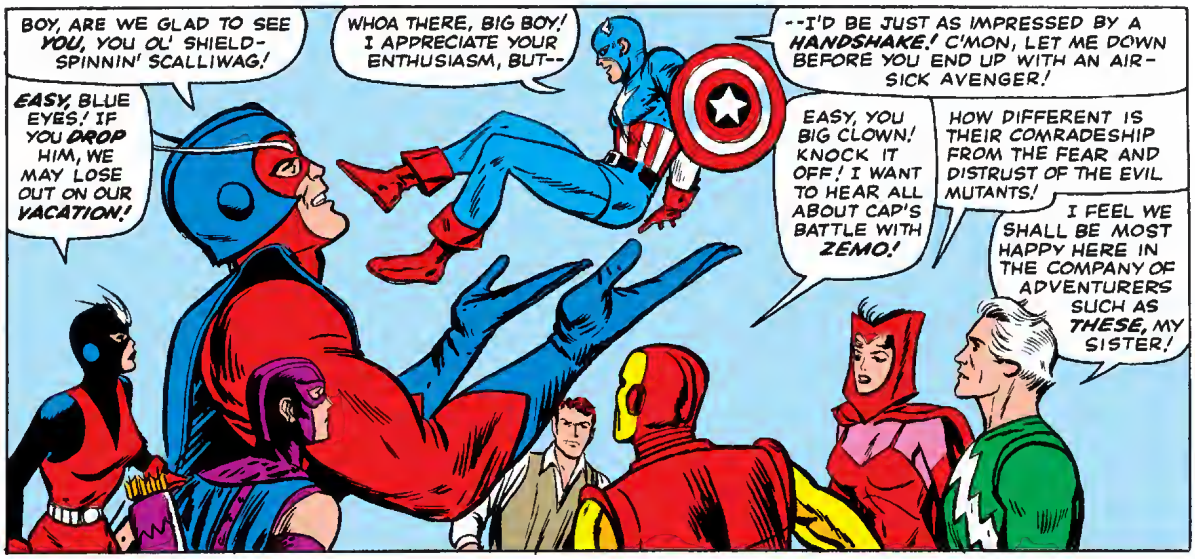

THE REPORTERS WHO ARE HERE BEAR WITNESS TO YOUR FAME, MY FRIENDS!
WOULD YOU REMOVE YOUR COATS FOR A PICTURE, PLEASE? THANKS--THAT'S GREAT!
WE HOPE TO BECOME AVENGERS --IF THEY WILL HAVE US!
IS IT TRUE YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT TWO AVENGERS REPLACEMENTS??

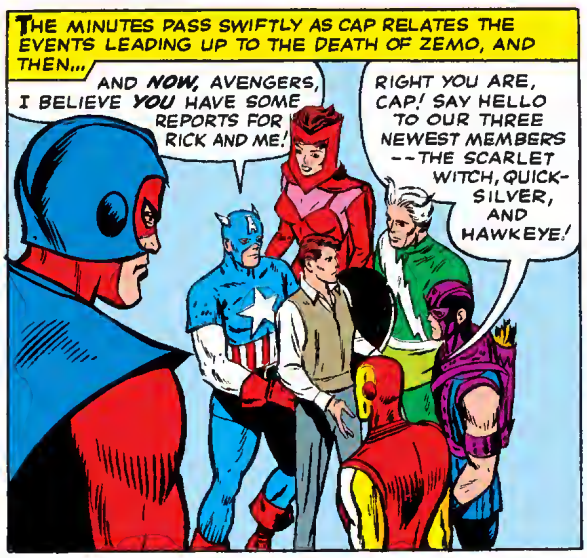

THUS, THE COLORFUL MUTANTS ARE USHERED INTO TONY STARK'S MANSION, WHERE THEY AWAIT THEIR COMING INTERVIEW...
IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT THE AVENGERS ARE BREAKING UP, MR. STARK?
NOT AT ALL, WANDA! IN FACT, FAR FROM IT! SOME OF THE MEMBERS MERELY WANT TO TAKE LEAVES OF ABSENCE!
BUT, THEY CANNOT DO IT UNTIL SATISFACTORY REPLACEMENTS ARE FOUND!

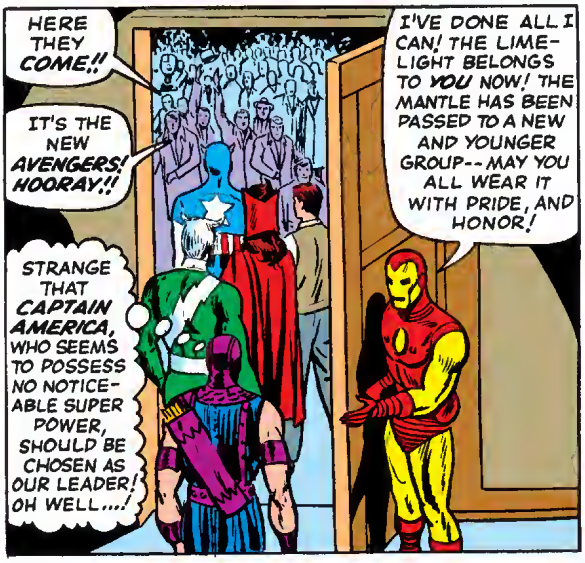

AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU TWO WILL QUALIFY IN THAT RESPECT! WELL, I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW! SINCE I'M NOT OFFICIALLY AN AVENGER, THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO HERE!
BUT, IF YOU SHOULD BE ACCEPTED, YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WHICH MY WEALTH WILL ALLOW ME TO FURNISH! GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH!
THANK YOU, MR. STARK!
I TRUST OUR INTERVIEW WILL BE SOON! I AM ANXIOUS TO MEET THE FAMOUS AVENGERS!


WHAT IS IT, CAP? WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN THERE?
I'M NOT SURE, RICK! THERE SEEM TO BE SOME NEWCOMERS AT THE ROUND TABLE--ONE OF THEM, A COSTUMED GIRL, IS MAKING AN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH!
MY BROTHER AND I ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN US, AND WE ACCEPT OUR POSITIONS WITH GREAT PRIDE...


HOLD IT, ALL OF YOU! LOOK--LOOK WHO'S HERE!
HELLO, AVENGERS! APPARENTLY, THERE'S BEEN SOME CHANGES MADE SINCE I LEFT!
CAP! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE SAFE!
YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, CAP!
AND WHAT AM I--A FEVER BLISTER?


BOY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU, YOU OL' SHIELD-SPINNIN' SCALLIWAG!
WHOA THERE, BIG BOY! I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT--
--I'D BE JUST AS IMPRESSED BY A HANDSHAKE! C'MON, LET ME DOWN BEFORE YOU END UP WITH AN AIR-SICK AVENGER!
EASY, BLUE EYES! IF YOU DROP HIM, WE MAY LOSE OUT ON OUR VACATION!
EASY, YOU BIG CLOWN! KNOCK IT OFF! I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT CAP'S BATTLE WITH ZEMO!
HOW DIFFERENT IS THEIR COMRADESHIP FROM THE FEAR AND DISTRUST OF THE EVIL MUTANTS!
I FEEL WE SHALL BE MOST HAPPY HERE IN THE COMPANY OF ADVENTURERS SUCH AS THESE, MY SISTER!


THE MINUTES PASS SWIFTLY AS CAP RELATES THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE DEATH OF ZEMO, AND THEN...
AND NOW, AVENGERS, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOME REPORTS FOR RICK AND ME!
RIGHT YOU ARE, CAP! SAY HELLO TO OUR THREE NEWEST MEMBERS --THE SCARLET WITCH, QUICK-SILVER, AND HAWKEYE!


HERE THEY COME!!
IT'S THE NEW AVENGERS! HOORAY!!
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN! THE LIME-LIGHT BELONGS TO YOU NOW! THE MANTLE HAS BEEN PASSED TO A NEW AND YOUNGER GROUP--MAY YOU ALL WEAR IT WITH PRIDE, AND HONOR!
STRANGE THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA, WHO SEEMS TO POSSESS NO NOTICE-ABLE SUPER POWER, SHOULD BE CHOSEN AS OUR LEADER! OH WELL...!


AND SO, AS THE NEW AVENGERS ACCEPT THE CHEERS OF THE CROWD, A NEW ERA BEGINS!
SAY IT, CAP! LET'S HEAR IT, JUST ONCE MORE!
ALL RIGHT! THIS IS FOR YOU--! AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!
RIGHT NOW THE CROWDS ARE WITH US! BUT, WITHOUT THOR, GIANT-MAN, AND IRON MAN, DO WE HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO JUSTIFY THEIR CONFIDENCE?? I WONDER?
THE END


MARVEL
PSR 2
WHEDON
CASSADAY
ASTONISHING
X-MEN


WE GET REPORTS FROM NEIGHBORS ALL THE TIME.
COUPLE SCREAMING AT EACH OTHER...USUALLY THEY'VE HAD A FEW DRINKS. THEY NEED TO CALM DOWN. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE THERE TO ACCOMPLISH. BUT THEY SEE US AND IT JUST, YOU KNOW...IT CAN BE INFLAMMATORY.
THE UNIFORM.
ALWAYS GOTTA COMPENSATE. DEFUSE.
DEFUSE.
AAAGHLAAAAYYY!!!
GOD...
BACK DOOR! NOW!
OH.
NO.
NO.


A CHILD'S MUTANT POWER USUALLY MANIFESTS AT PUBERTY. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE FOR TILDIE SOAMES.
CLICK
HER ABILITY TO MANIFEST HER OWN NIGHTMARES COST THE LIVES OF HER PARENTS, AS WELL AS OFFICER HOYT.
SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS WAS NOT HER FAULT.
THIS BRAVE CHILD OFFERED TO WORK WITH US, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF HER GUARDIANS AND GOVERNMENT HEALTH AGENCIES, TO TEST BENETECH LAB'S NEW VACCINE.
IN THE COMING MONTHS, SHE WILL MAKE HERSELF AVAILABLE TO GENETIC TEAMS FROM EVERY NATION TO PROVE WHAT WE NOW CONCLUSIVELY KNOW.
THE MUTANT STRAIN CAN BE ELIMINATED. SAFELY AND IRREVERSIBLY.


THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A SECOND CHANCE.


WHAT DO WE SEE?
SCANNER'S READING ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE WARM BODIES IN THE PENTHOUSE. SIX OF THEM CARRYING SOMETHING A LOT WARMER.
BOMBS?
OR GUNS. STATE-OF-THE-ART-OF-WAR.
WASN'T *S.H.I.E.L.D.* DEVELOPING SOME KIND OF THERMAL ORDNANCE?
THESE CLOWNS AIN'T S.H.I.E.L.D.
DEPLOYMENT'S AMATEUR HOUR--RIGHT FLANK'S WIDE OPEN.
THAT'S YOUR ENTRY POINT.
MAYBE.
OUR BIGGEST QUESTION MARK'S THE HOSTAGES. IF THEY'RE GONNA PLAY HERO.
THE HOSTAGES ARE FLAT ON THE GROUND, PRAYING OR PEEING.
YOU CAN READ THEM FROM HERE?
THIS IS WALTER LANGFORD'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE.
IT'S THE FIRST YEAR I'VE MISSED IT.
ANYWAY, OUR BIGGEST QUESTION ISN'T THE HOSTAGES, OR THE MEN WITH THE BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL WEAPONRY.

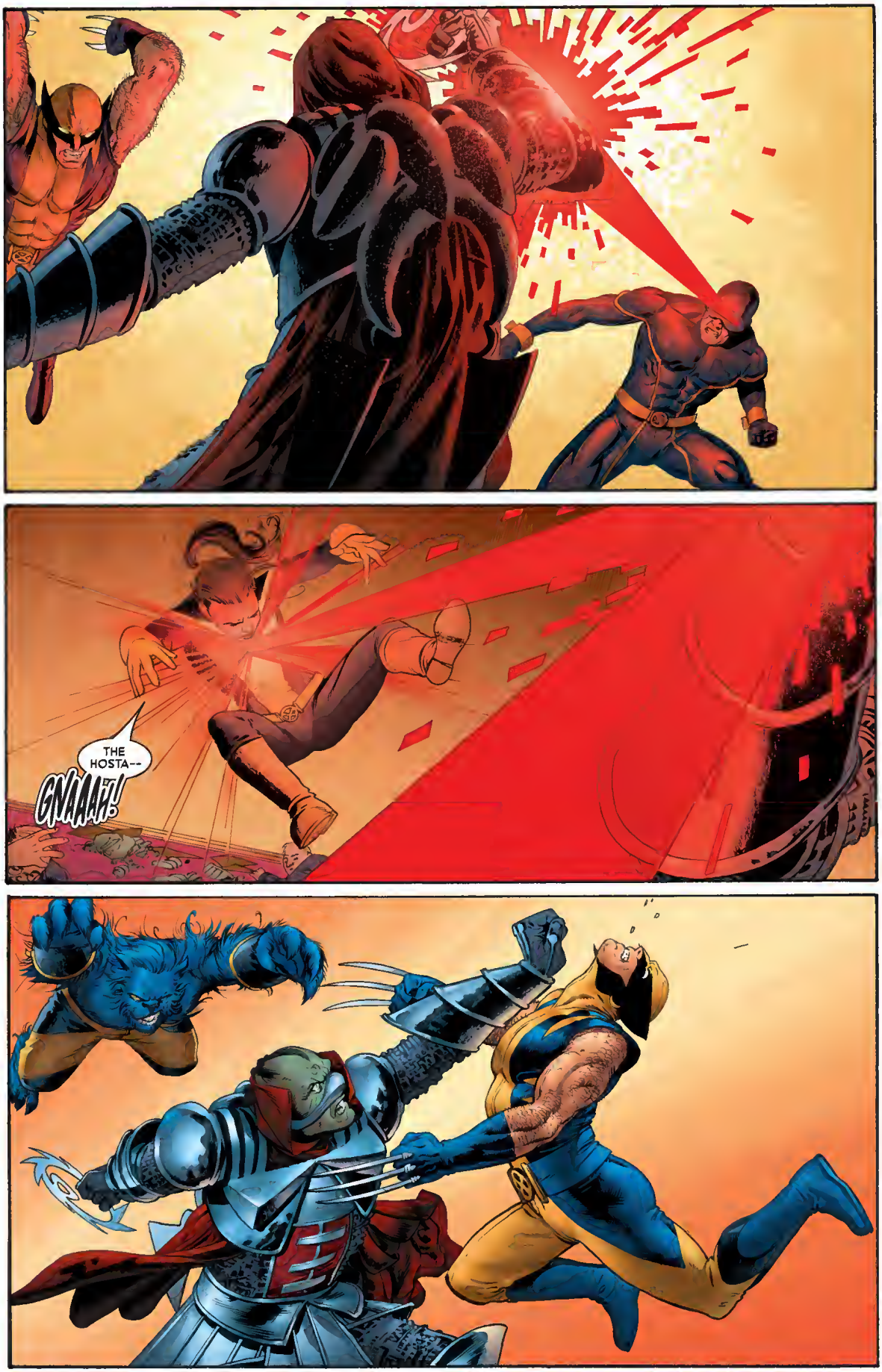

OUR BIGGEST QUESTION IS HIM.
HMM.
A MOTH.
A SINGLE MOTH WOULD HAVE MADE MORE NOISE TOUCHING DOWN.


THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.
BRING 'EM *ON,* BABY.
WE ARE LOCKED AND WE ARE *LOADED.*
HEARTBREAKERS AND LIFETAKERS. AM I RIGHT?
OH YEAH!
BRING ON THE MUTIES!
OH *YEAH!*
ARE YOU FINISHED?


AAAHHHH!
THOUGHT I DIDN'T SEE YOU, HUH? THOUGHT YOU'D SNEAK BY?
SOLDIER...
...WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
MY SWIM COACH...
MISS FROST IS HERE. TURN UP YOUR SCRAMBLERS AND KEEP HER OUT OF YOUR HEADS. GO HOT ON WEAPONS.
THIS WILL HAPPEN FAST.
SWORE IF I EVER SAW HIM...
...AND I DID... HE WENT FLYING RIGHT BACK THROUGH THE WINDOW...
...JUST LIKE I ALWAYS IMAGINED...




HMM.
X-MEN.
YOU DO NOT DISAPPOINT.
THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO GO ANY FURTHER.
I WASN'T AWARE IT HAD BEGUN.
WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT FROM THESE PEOPLE--
HE ALREADY GOT IT.
THIS WAS A TEST.
NOT A DIFFICULT ONE, IT'S TRUE, BUT YOU STILL PERFORMED ADMIRABLY.
AND DON'T MEDDLE WITH MY MIND, MISS FROST. YOU COULD NOT HOPE TO DECIPHER MY THINKINGS.
WHEREAS YOURS ARE ACUTELY TRANSPARENT.


THE HOSTA--
GNAAAH!



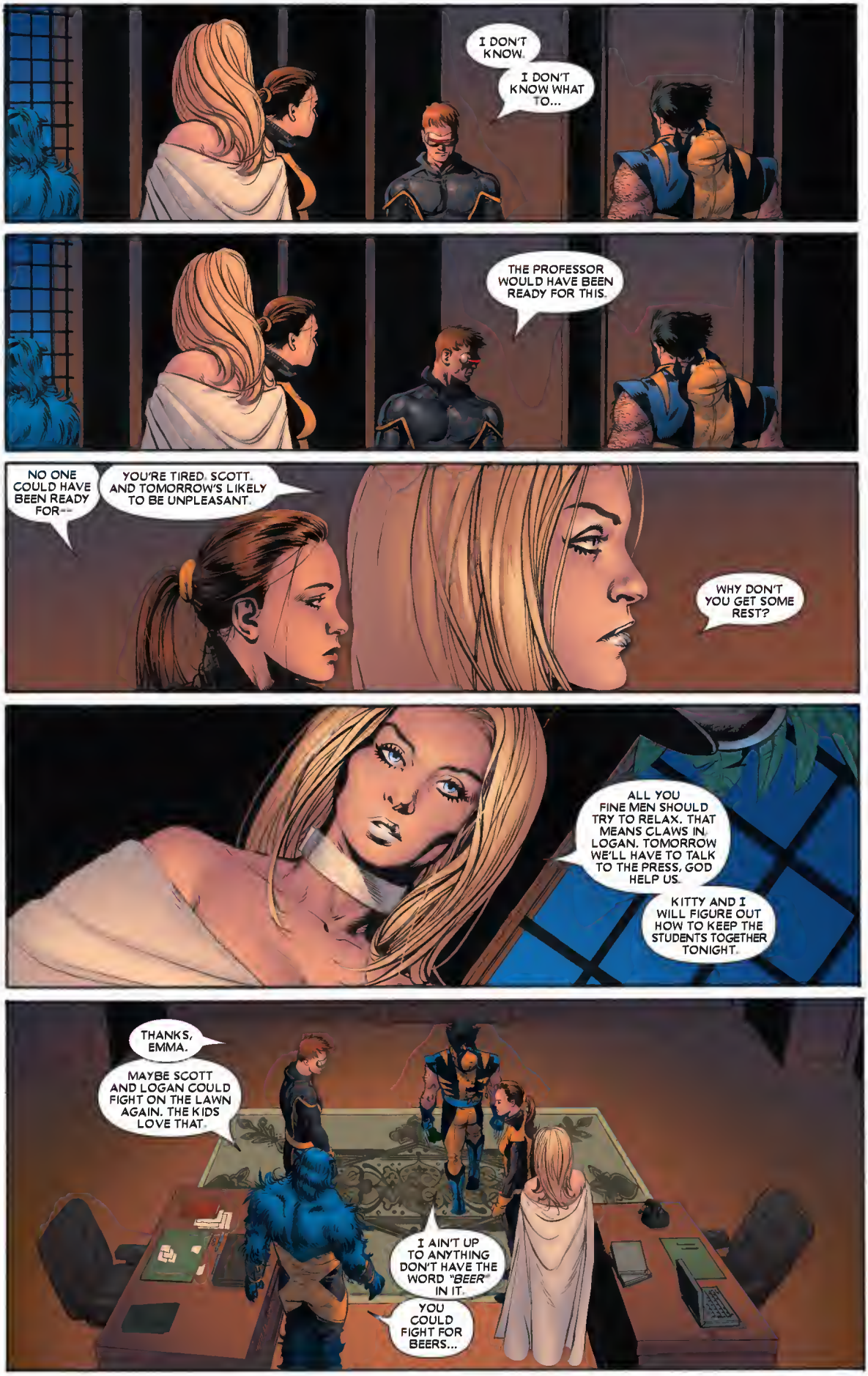

DIAMOND.
I AM ORD, OF THE BREAKWORLD.
WE STUFF OUR PILLOWS WITH DIAMONDS.
I WAS WRONG. I *AM* DISAPPOINTED.
THE MIGHTY X-MEN. AND NOT ONE OF THEM STRONG ENOUGH TO...
WAIT--

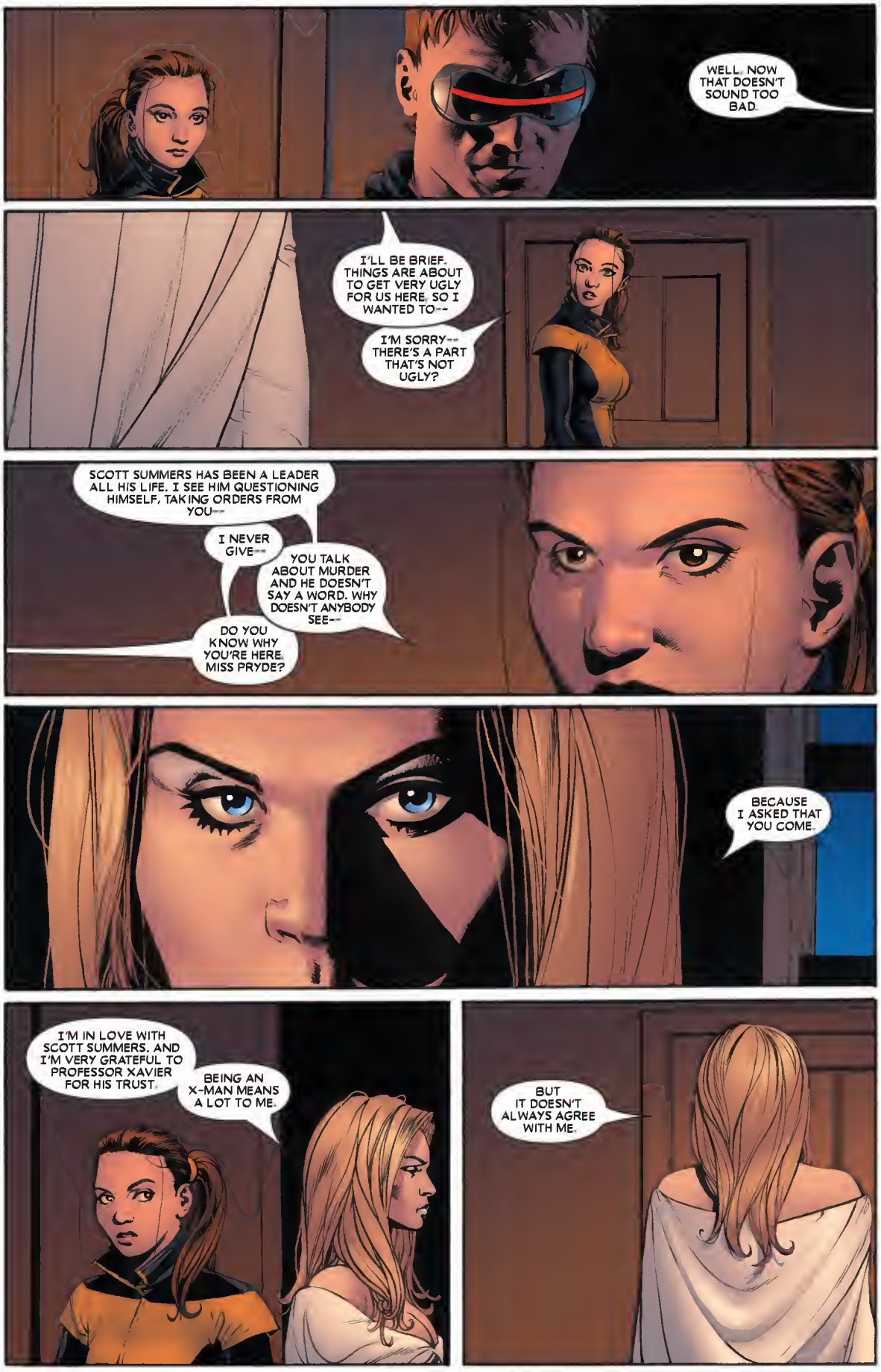

ROAAAAHHHGHRRRR!
AHHH! NO! I CAN'T-- I--
LOCKHEED! YOU FOUND ME!
YOU ARE THE BEST X-DRAGON EVER.
HELL, I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE HIM TEAM LEADER.
LOOKS LIKE OUR FRIEND'S GONE.
WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "THIS ISN'T OVER!"
THERE'S SIMPLY NO ETIQUETTE NOWADAYS.

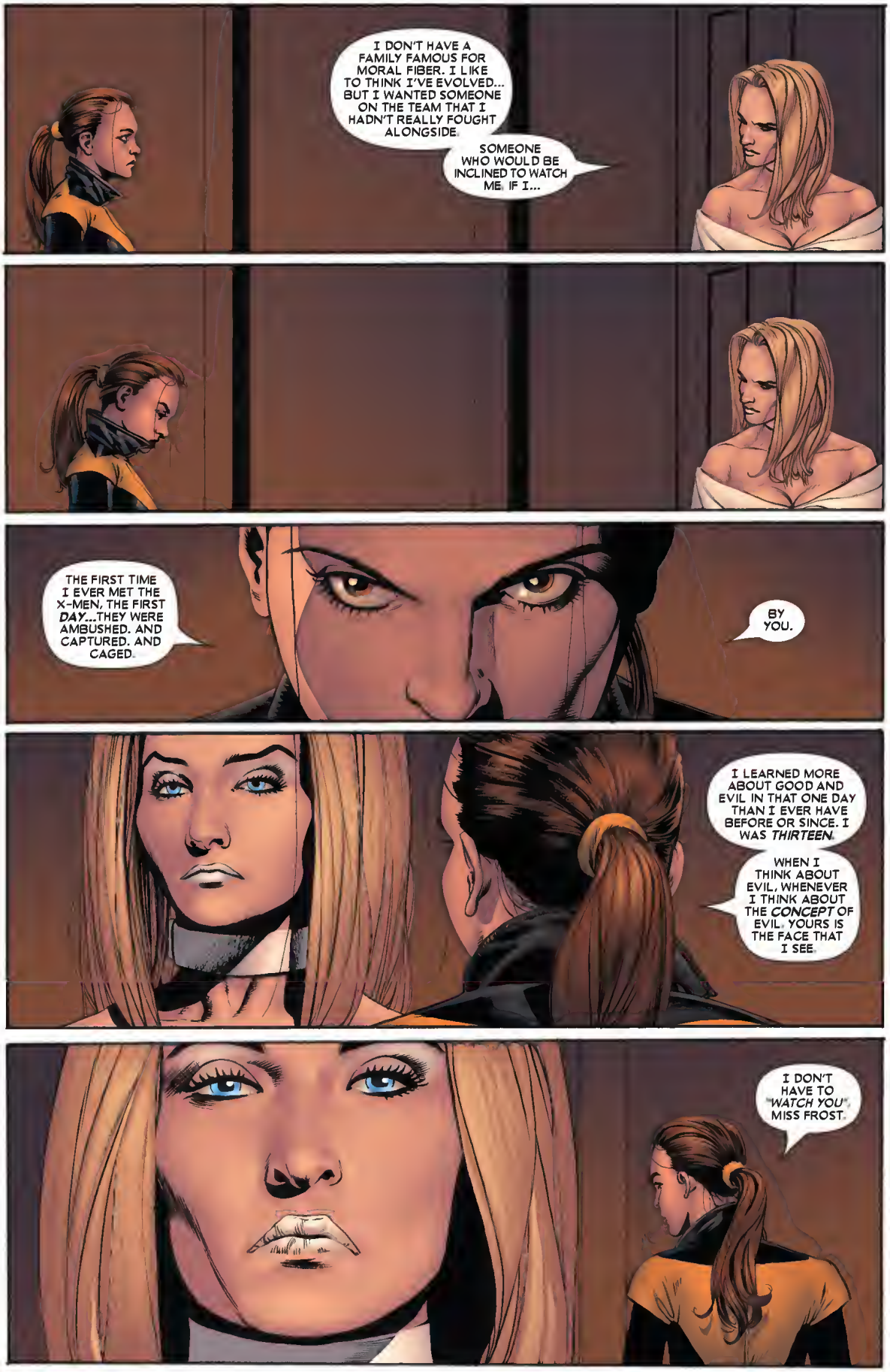

ZERO CASUALTIES. WHICH IS GOOD.
BUT ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT, WE JUST GOT THRASHED.
SO NOW LET'S DO THE HARD PART.
WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?
IS ANYBODY HURT? IS THIS ANOTHER MUTANT ATTACK?
EVERYBODY'S FINE, AND NO, THIS IS NOT MUTANT RELATED.
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WE CAME BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE IN TROUBLE.
WE X-MEN HAVE ALWAYS FELT IT IS OUR DUTY TO USE OUR SUPERPOWERS TO HELP NOT JUST OUR OWN COMMUNITY, BUT--
MISTER LANGFORD--
WHO FLEW AWAY? WAS THAT STORM?
(OH PLEASE)
DID IT LOOK LIKE STORM?
YOU CAN SEEEE BY OUR OUTFITS... THAT WE ARE ALL HE-EEROES...
WE DON'T YET KNOW WHO ATTACKED--
WE HEARD SHOOTING. DID YOU START THE SHOOTING?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE PEOPLE WE SAVED WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT ARE YOU CALLED, MISS?
UM...WELL, I MOSTLY... SHADOWCAT IS WHAT I USED TO--
DO YOU HAVE A LICENSE FOR THAT BAT?
WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BAT?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
--MY FAMILY'S EXTREMELY GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR GENERATIONS, AND THE VERY YEAR IT BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT I AM A MUTANT, I AM FOR THE FIRST TIME LEFT OFF THE GUEST LIST.
TELL ME, DEAR WALTER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE OBSESSED WITH THE WORKS OF LEROY NEIMAN?
I MEAN, SEXUALLY?
BEING HATED AND FEARED BY A WORLD THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND US BEATS THIS CIRCUS ANY DAY.
OH, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GROUCHY WHEN YOU GET CUT IN HALF.
DR. MCCOY! DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS SO-CALLED "MUTANT CURE"?
I'M SORRY.
"CURE"?


"THE KIDS ARE FREAKING OUT."
THEY'RE TERRIFIED, CONFUSED-- SOME OF THEM ARE ECSTATIC. THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS.
AND THEY'RE GIVING ME A SODDING MIGRAINE. THE PSYCHIC TENSION IS UNBEARABLE.
I GUESS FIRST WE HAVE TO FIND OUT IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF HOAX. FIND OUT WHO THIS WOMAN--
DR. KAVITA RAO.
SHE'S ONE OF THE GREATEST GENETICISTS ALIVE. AND NOT PRONE TO PRANKS.
I DON'T KNOW THIS CORPORATION, "BENETECH", BUT IF DR. RAO SAYS SHE CAN REVERSE MUTATION, THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT SHE CAN.
THEN I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KILL HER.


WELL THERE'S A THOUGHTFUL PLAN.
AND I SAY "*AMEN*" TO IT.
WOMAN CALLED ME A DISEASE. YOU KNOW HOW THAT FEELS TO ME? I CAN'T EVEN SHEATHE. MY CLAWS WON'T GO BACK.
SHE SAID WE WERE A DISEASE.
SHE SAID THE MUTANT *STRAIN* WAS A DISEASE.
THINK SHE KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE?
YOU THINK THE *GOVERNMENT* WILL?
IF THIS MUTANT "*CURE*" DOES EXIST THEN THEY WILL GET HOLD OF IT. AND THEY WILL LINE US UP... DON'T YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS HEADING?
YEAH, TO *MURDER*. THE PROFESSOR WOULD BE SO PROUD.
AS USUAL. YOUR NAIVETE IS NEITHER CUTE NOR USEFUL.
SUPPOSE IT'S *NOT* THE GOVERNMENT THAT GETS IT? SUPPOSE IT'S SOME ANTI-MUTANT EXTREMIST?
OR OUR NEW BUDDY FROM ANOTHER WORLD?
ORD.
WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GUY. HE DREW US OUT FOR A REASON.
YEAH, RIGHT BEFORE THE NICE DOCTOR LADY WENT PUBLIC. WE THINKIN' THAT'S A COINCIDENCE?


I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO...
THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE BEEN READY FOR THIS.
NO ONE COULD HAVE BEEN READY FOR--
YOU'RE TIRED, SCOTT. AND TOMORROW'S LIKELY TO BE UNPLEASANT.
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST?
ALL YOU FINE MEN SHOULD TRY TO RELAX. THAT MEANS CLAWS IN, LOGAN. TOMORROW WE'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE PRESS, GOD HELP US.
KITTY AND I WILL FIGURE OUT HOW TO KEEP THE STUDENTS TOGETHER TONIGHT.
THANKS, EMMA.
MAYBE SCOTT AND LOGAN COULD FIGHT ON THE LAWN AGAIN. THE KIDS LOVE THAT.
I AIN'T UP TO ANYTHING DON'T HAVE THE WORD "BEER" IN IT.
YOU COULD FIGHT FOR BEERS...


WELL. NOW THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD.
I'LL BE BRIEF. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET VERY UGLY FOR US HERE. SO I WANTED TO--
I'M SORRY-- THERE'S A PART THAT'S NOT UGLY?
SCOTT SUMMERS HAS BEEN A LEADER ALL HIS LIFE. I SEE HIM QUESTIONING HIMSELF, TAKING ORDERS FROM YOU--
I NEVER GIVE--
YOU TALK ABOUT MURDER AND HE DOESN'T SAY A WORD. WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY SEE--
DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, MISS PRYDE?
BECAUSE I ASKED THAT YOU COME.
I'M IN LOVE WITH SCOTT SUMMERS. AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO PROFESSOR XAVIER FOR HIS TRUST.
BEING AN X-MAN MEANS A LOT TO ME.
BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH ME.


I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY FAMOUS FOR MORAL FIBER. I LIKE TO THINK I'VE EVOLVED... BUT I WANTED SOMEONE ON THE TEAM THAT I HADN'T REALLY FOUGHT ALONGSIDE.
SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INCLINED TO WATCH ME, IF I...
THE FIRST TIME I EVER MET THE X-MEN, THE FIRST *DAY*...THEY WERE AMBUSHED. AND CAPTURED. AND CAGED.
BY YOU.
I LEARNED MORE ABOUT GOOD AND EVIL IN THAT ONE DAY THAN I EVER HAVE BEFORE OR SINCE. I WAS *THIRTEEN*.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT EVIL, WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT THE *CONCEPT* OF EVIL, YOURS IS THE FACE THAT I SEE.
I DON'T HAVE TO *"WATCH YOU"*, MISS FROST.


I CAN SMELL YOU.
BeneTech
LABORATORIES




CLICK
DOCTOR RAO.
DOCTOR McCOY.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, BERLIN, WASN'T IT? THE CLONING SEMINAR...
THERE ARE ARMED GUARDS WAITING OUTSIDE THE DOOR. AND ENOUGH GAS TO PUT *GALACTUS* TO SLEEP...
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD BREAK IN HERE?
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T TRY?
YOU'VE THROWN A BOMB IN THE ROOM, DOCTOR. PEOPLE WILL DIE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE TODAY.
AND INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL LIVE. WILL LIVE DECENT, NORMAL LIVES.


YES. I SAW YOU TRUNDLING OUT YOUR POSTER CHILD.
NICE PIECE OF PUBLICITY TILDIE'S BUYING YOU. WELL PLAYED.
I'M NOT PLAYING, DR. McCOY. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY UNWANTED MUTATION AND I WILL GIVE MY LIFE TO HELP THEM. WHATEVER YOU AND YOUR X-MEN PLAN TO DO, I WON'T--
KAVITA.
STOP.
I'M NOT HERE TO DISCUSS THE ETHICS OF YOUR *"MUTANT CURE"*.
AND I'M NOT HERE TO DESTROY IT.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF IT WORKS.


EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
AVENGERS
FINALE
MARVEL
PSR




IT'S KIND OF BEAUTIFUL IN A WEIRD WAY.
THIS IS THE WAY TONY'S LEAVING IT?
IT'S HIS
HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE *WANTS* WITH IT
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, DR. PYM??
I DON'T WANT TO SAY

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents...

PREVIOUSLY

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS FINALE



It was the worst day in Avengers history. The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers.

In the chaos created around the breakdown, beloved Avengers Hawkeye, Ant-Man and the Vision lost their lives.

Avengers Mansion was all but destroyed after the Vision was forced against his will to crash a Quinjet into it and the recomposed corpse of ex-Avenger Jack of Hearts exploded in the courtyard.

Many of the other Avengers were hurt, both emotionally and physically.

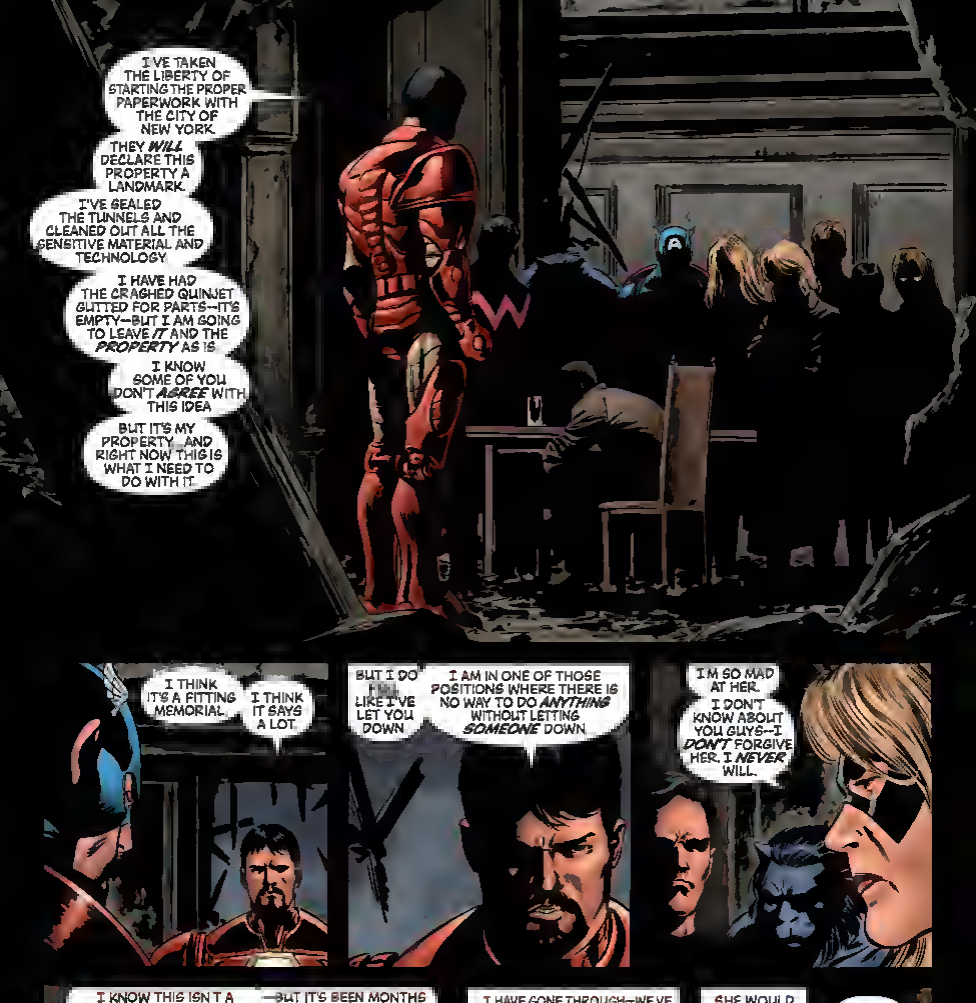
That was three months ago...

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FAVORITE THING ABOUT CLINT WAS THAT NO MATTER WHAT CAP SAID, HE DISAGREED
—NOT JUST DISAGREED BUT CRAZY DISAGREED IF CAP SAID, I LIKE TURKEY...
JARVIS...?
HMM...?
THAT'S... NOT NECESSARY.
SORRY, SIR. HABIT.
HAWKEYE WOULD YELL TURKEY SUCKS AND YOU SUCK AND WHO MADE YOU BOSS?
HA.
VERY GOOD, MADAM.
HI, GUYS...
I'M OK, CAROL.
JANET?!
YOU CAN'T RETURN A PHONE CALL?
I HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE COUNTRY
THAT'S WHY GOD INVENTED TELEPHONES.
I WASN'T BLOWING YOU OFF, CAROL. ANY OF YOU.
I WAS IN RECOVERY. A LOT OF SLEEPING AND A LOT OF BAD TV
I WAS WORRIED
I'M SORRY, GUYS, I THOUGHT EVERYONE WAS...
JENNIFER?
JEN. WHY AREN'T YOU HULKED UP FOR THE BIG REUNION?
WHY ARE YOU HERE AS JENNIFER WALTERS AND NOT SHE-HULK?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IN BAD TASTE CONSIDERING


NO ONE'S *MAD* AT YOU, JENNIFER. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
NO ONE'S MAD AT YOU.
THE VISION...
THE VISION'S BODY WAS ALREADY DESTROYED BEFORE YOU PICKED HIM UP.
AND IT *WASN'T* YOU—IT WAS WANDA.
IT WAS HER CONTROLLING YOU.
NO ONE HERE THINKS OTHERWISE.
LISTEN, I—
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.
UM—AS YOU KNOW, IF THERE WAS *ANY* UPSIDE TO THE NIGHTMARE WE'VE BEEN THROUGH... IT IS THAT I WAS ABLE TO PUT THE GENIE BACK IN THE BOTTLE AS FAR AS MY SECRET IDENTITY IS CONCERNED.
MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT TONY STARK AND IRON MAN ARE NOW TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
I WOULD NEVER ASK ANY OF YOU TO OUTRIGHT *LIE* FOR ME...
...BUT IF IT COMES UP—IF YOU COULD AT LEAST NOT SAY ANYTHING TO *CONTRADICT* ME.
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT.
BUT...


AND I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS ABOUT THE HARDEST THING I HAVE EVER HAD TO SAY OUT LOUD...
BUT BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DAMAGE WANDA'S BREAKDOWN...
OR WHAT*EVER* WE ARE CALLING IT...
BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE TO US TO ME AND MY COMPANY...
I'M NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO FINANCE THE AVENGERS ANYMORE.
OR MORE TO THE POINT THE FOUNDATION THAT I CREATED THAT FUNDS THE AVENGERS JUST DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH CASH IN IT TO REPAIR THIS
REALIZE THAT WHEN SOMEONE LIKE ME HAS A BAD DAY—
—LIKE *THAT* DAY—
—THE PUBLIC HUMILIATION—
—BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE LOST THOUSANDS OF *JOBS* ARE LOST
NO EXAGGERATION
I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES DEPEND ON ME.
AND AS LONG AS I HAVE *THAT* PRIORITY HANGING OVER MY HEAD...
I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO BRING THE FOUNDATION BACK TO A PLACE LIKE THE ONE WE WOULD NEED TO REBUILD
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD *SURPRISE* ANY OF YOU THAT THE SHEER FINANCIAL *MAGNITUDE* THE DAILY UPKEEP OF THE MANSION WAS—
AND WITH THE U.N. OFFICIALLY TREATING US LIKE A DATE THAT WOULDN'T PUT OUT
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THE GOVERNMENT FUNDING WE WOULD NEED.
I KNOW THAT WHINING ABOUT MONEY WHEN CLINT SCOTT WANDA AND THE VISION ARE NO LONGER WITH US SEEMS *CRASS* ON THE SURFACE...
BUT IT AFFECTS YOU ALL... OR I WOULDN'T EVEN BRING IT UP.


I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF STARTING THE PROPER PAPERWORK WITH THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
THEY *WILL* DECLARE THIS PROPERTY A LANDMARK.
I'VE SEALED THE TUNNELS AND CLEANED OUT ALL THE SENSITIVE MATERIAL AND TECHNOLOGY.
I HAVE HAD THE CRASHED QUINJET GUTTED FOR PARTS--IT'S EMPTY--BUT I AM GOING TO LEAVE *IT* AND THE *PROPERTY* AS IS.
I KNOW SOME OF YOU DON'T *AGREE* WITH THIS IDEA.
BUT IT'S MY PROPERTY...AND RIGHT NOW THIS IS WHAT I NEED TO DO WITH IT.

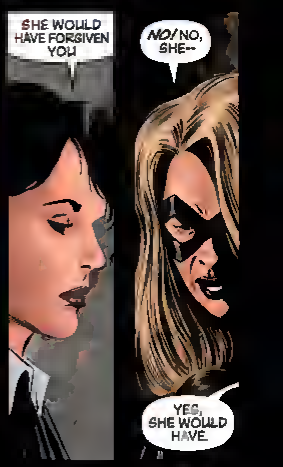
I THINK IT'S A FITTING MEMORIAL.
I THINK IT SAYS A LOT.

BUT I DO FEEL LIKE I'VE LET YOU DOWN.
I AM IN ONE OF THOSE POSITIONS WHERE THERE IS NO WAY TO DO *ANYTHING* WITHOUT LETTING *SOMEONE* DOWN.

I'M SO MAD AT HER.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS--I *DON'T* FORGIVE HER. I *NEVER* WILL.


I KNOW THIS ISN'T A PARTICULARLY GENEROUS THOUGHT--
--BUT IT'S BEEN MONTHS NOW, AND IT'S ALL I'VE BEEN FEELING.
I HATE WANDA FOR WHAT SHE'S DONE.
I HATE HER MORE THAN I'VE EVER HATED ANYONE.
I DON'T FORGIVE HER.


I HAVE GONE THROUGH--WE'VE *ALL* GONE THROUGH JUST AS MUCH NIGHTMARE CRAP IN OUR LIVES AS *SHE* HAD.
I LOOK AROUND THE ROOM AND ALL I *SEE* ARE LOVES LOST. CHILDREN LOST. MEMBERS GONE.
I HELD IT TOGETHER. *I* DIDN'T GO ON A RAMPAGE.
AND I *COULD* HAVE! YOU KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
DAMN HER FOR WHAT SHE'S DONE TO US.


SHE WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN YOU.
NO! NO, SHE--
YES, SHE WOULD HAVE.


PIETRO!!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
MY SISTER LOVED YOU.
I WAS ON A VACATION. SITTING IN GREENLAND... IN A SMALL RENTED CABIN
READING NOVELS
THAT'S WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN THIS HAPPENED. I WAS READING
BUT WE SAW YOU THAT DAY.
THAT WAS NOT ME. SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN MY SISTER'S DOING.
OH MY GOD...
DO--DO YOU KNOW WHERE WANDA IS?


SHE'S WITH MY FATHER
MAGNETO HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY AND TAKEN HER TO CHARLES XAVIER.
XAVIER'S TRYING TO REPAIR HER MIND THROUGH ANY NUMBER OF...THEY SAID, PSYCHIC TECHNIQUES.
XAVIER WILL TRY TO MAKE HER WHAT SHE ONCE WAS TO HEAL HER MIND.
BUT EVEN IF HE DOES...
MY SISTER WHEN SHE REALIZES WHAT SHE HAS DONE HERE...
I THINK IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EVER HEAL HER.
SHE WILL NEVER BE THE WOMAN SHE ONCE WAS.
NOT AFTER THIS.
NO ONE COULD RECOVER FROM THIS.
I CAME HERE TO APOLOGIZE.
I--
I CAME HERE TO--


PIETRO??
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU, SIMON--HE'S NOT IN THE CITY ANYMORE.
POOR GUY
HE SHOULD HAVE TOLD US WHERE SHE IS.
WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE?
HAS, UH, ANYONE HEARD FROM THOR? HAS ANYONE SEEN HIM?
COULD MS. MAXIMOFF'S "REACH" HAVE GONE AS FAR AS THOR'S HOME IN ASGARD?
IT GOT ALL THE WAY TO THE KREE ARMY
IF THAT WAS THE KREE ARMY
SHE MIGHT HAVE CREATED THAT ENTIRE SITUATION OUT OF THIN AIR
AND WE WEREN'T THE ONLY VICTIMS HERE--IT WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE THAT DAY
I KEEP HOPING THIS WAS--
THAT I'D WAKE UP IN THE MANSION AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE LIKE IT WAS BUT
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S EATING AT ME? I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WANDA'S OVERALL PLAN WAS
I WANT TO KNOW WHY SHE KILLED SOME OF US, BUT ONLY HURT OR [illegible] OTHERS
DESTROYED SOME THINGS AND NOT OTHERS
HOW FAR WAS IT GOING TO GO IF SHE WENT ALL THE WAY WITH IT?
JUST HOW POWERFUL IS SHE?
DID SHE SLOWLY DIP INTO MADNESS OR DID SHE SNAP?
HOW MUCH CONTROL DID SHE HAVE OVER IT ALL?
WAS IT ONLY THAT DAY OR WAS IT SLOWLY BUILDING? WHAT ELSE DID SHE AFFECT THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE?
SO THIS IS IT RIGHT?
WE'RE DONE.


I AM.
THAT'S--THAT'S REALLY WHAT I CAME HERE TO SAY IN PERSON.
I KNOW IT WASN'T *ME* WHO ATTACKED YOU, BUT IT WAS
I FAILED--NO, NO, I FAILED THE TEAM. I FAILED.
IF YOU KNEW WHAT MY PERSONAL GOALS WERE--IF YOU KNEW WHAT I HAD *HOPED* TO ACHIEVE HERE VERSUS WHAT I ACTUALLY HAVE...
I FAILED.
I'M SORRY...
...I LOVE YOU ALL...
...BUT I'M DONE WITH THE AVENGERS.
EXCUSE ME...
JENNIFER, COME ON, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
HANK?
ACTUALLY, I GUESS THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY...
UM, JANET AND I HAD COME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT I, UM, I ACCEPTED A FELLOWSHIP AT OXFORD.
WE'RE LEAVING IN A MONTH.


ARE--ARE YOU GUYS...YOU KNOW...BACK TOGETHER?
IT'S COMPLICATED.
WHICH IS SHOCKING TO HEAR FROM US, I KNOW.
BUT WE'LL--WE'LL SEE.
THIS WHOLE THING...IT WAS A REAL EYE-OPENER. REALLY PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.
I KNOW, AGAIN, SHOCKING.
BUT WHO WAS THERE WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL?
WHO HAD SAT THERE SO LONG HE HAD GROWN A BEARD?
AND IT REALLY MEANS SOMETHING TO ME. IT SHOWED ME SOMETHING.
I THINK MAYBE A CHANGE OF SCENERY TO GO WITH THE CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE...
IT'S WORTH A SHOT.
YEAH, ME TOO.
IF YOU ALL CARE...
...I'M PRETTY MUCH DONE HERE TOO.
NOT WANTING TO BE A "LEAVING-THE-SINKING-SHIP" KIND OF GUY...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'D BE SITTING IN HERE ALL BY MYSELF ANYHOW.
I GOT SOME STUFF GOING ON PERSONALLY AND IT AIN'T ABOUT YOU GUYS.
NOT AT ALL.
I MIGHT RETIRE THE FALCON WINGS ALTOGETHER.

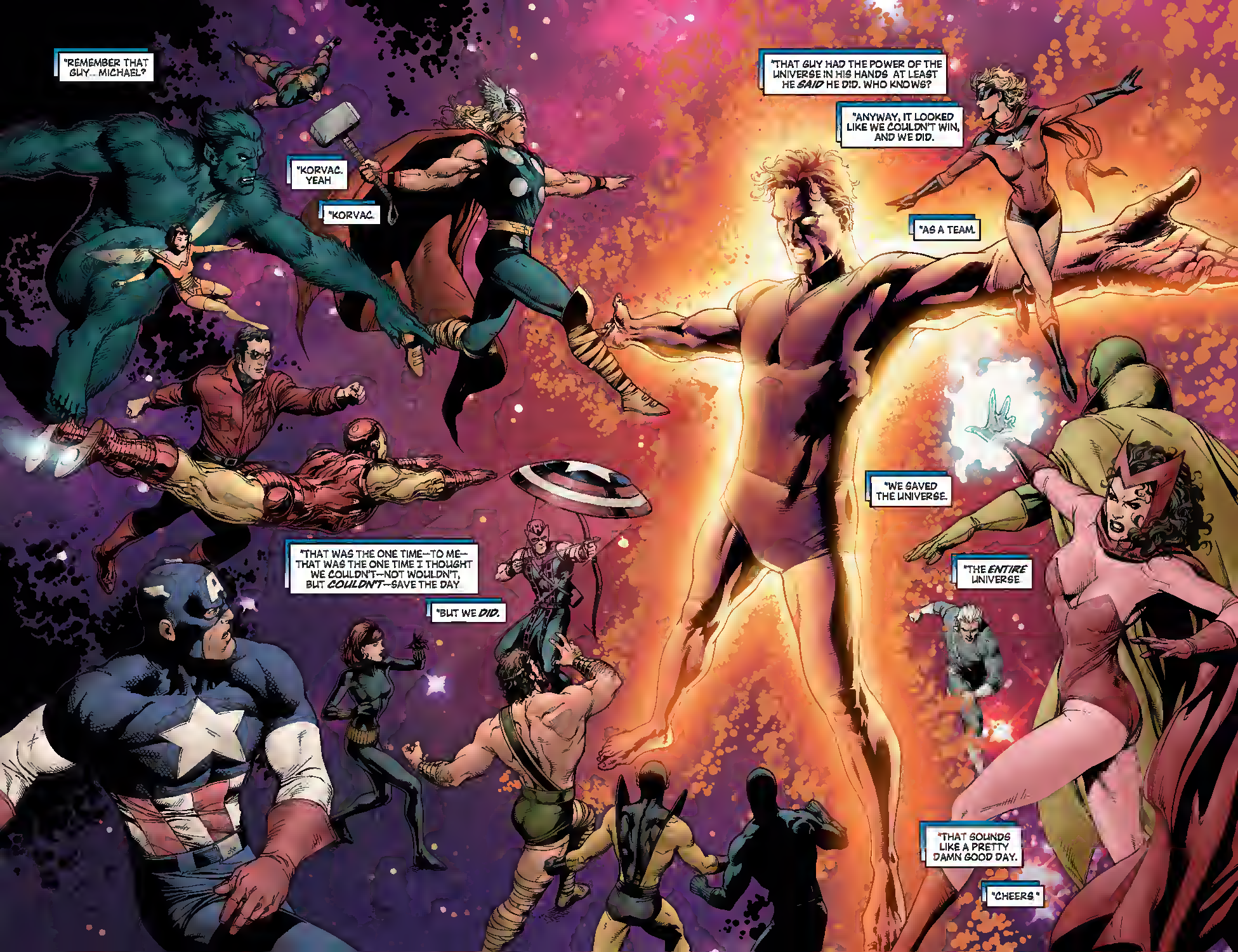

IF I MAY... HI—UM...
IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME SO MUCH OF MY LIFE HAS CHANGED
SO MUCH SO THAT THE WOMAN I AM NOW DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE THE WOMAN I WAS BEFORE I MET YOU ALL.
BEFORE I BECAME CAPTAIN BRITAIN
I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU.
I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM RETURNING TO ENGLAND WITH--WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE IN LIFE... AND IT'S *BECAUSE* OF ALL OF YOU
I'M GOING TO LEAVE NOW...
...BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW...
...THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU AND I WILL *ALWAYS* BE HERE FOR YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT THIS SECOND... STAY WITH US
FAREWELL AVENGERS.
WE DID DO GOOD THINGS, RIGHT? I MEAN... WE DID DO *SOMETHING* GOOD.
I—I JUST NEED TO KNOW IT WAS WORTH IT
TONY, WHAT WAS OUR BEST MOMENT?
BEST MOMENT?
YOUR OPINION...
BEST MOMENT.
I THINK, FOR ME...

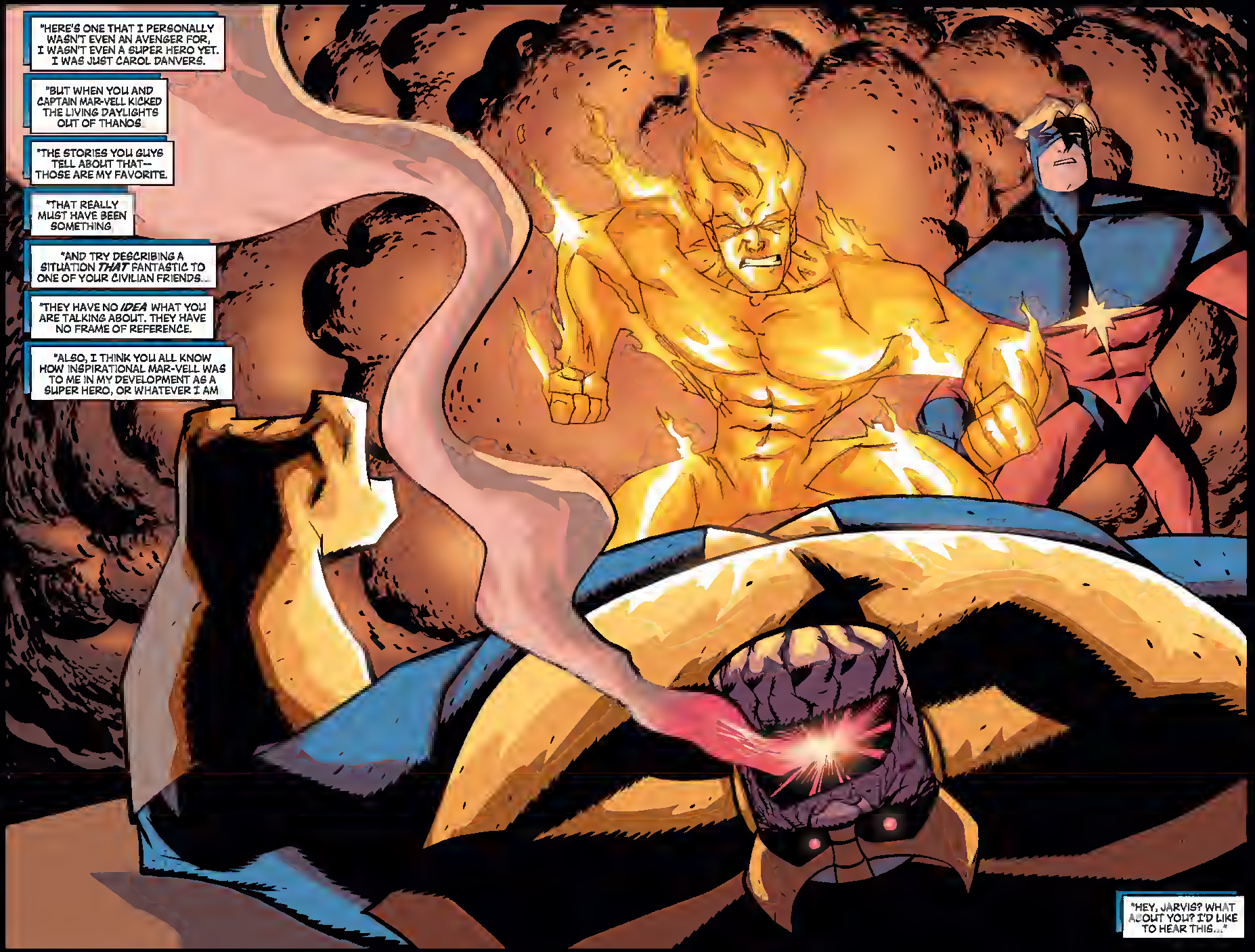

"THE BEST THING WE EVER DID WAS GETTING TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
"I WAS SO NEW TO THE ARMOR AND TO THE ADVENTURE. AND WHEN THIS TEAM GOT TOGETHER...
"...HULK INCLUDED...
"...I SAID TO MYSELF. *'THIS IS WORTH DOING. THIS IS IMPORTANT.'*
"A SUPERGROUP.
"DON'T TELL ANYONE I EVER SAID THIS OUT LOUD, BECAUSE I KNOW IT SOUNDS ARROGANT BEYOND COMPREHENSION. BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF US AS *'THE BEATLES'* OF SUPER HEROES.
"I WILL NEVER BE MORE PROUD OF ANYTHING IN MY WHOLE LIFE.
"THAT'S WHY I PICKED UP THE CHECK IN THE FIRST PLACE.
"IT WAS THE BEST MONEY I EVER SPENT.
"HOW ABOUT YOU, JANET? YOU'VE BEEN HERE WITH ME SINCE DAY ONE..."


"HONESTLY? FINDING CAPTAIN AMERICA
"WE NEEDED HIM THE COUNTRY NEEDED HIM LOOK AT HIM... WE *STILL* NEED HIM.
"FROM THE VERY SECOND HE JOINED THE AVENGERS... THE ENTIRE TEAM WAS ENERGIZED.
"I THINK OF THAT DAY AND I *STILL* GET CHILLS.
"WOW, WHEN I SAW THAT SHIELD... I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
"CAPTAIN AMERICA IS HERE.
"THANK GOD.
"HANK? TELL THEM YOURS. I KNOW IT, BUT TELL THEM. "


"YOU MIGHT FIND THIS ODD CONSIDERING I WASN'T THERE FOR MOST OF IT...
...BUT THE ONE THING I WISH I *COULD* HAVE BEEN A BIGGER PART OF...WAS THE KREE-SKRULL WAR.
"THIS WAS THE AVENGERS AT THEIR VERY BEST.
"TWO ALIEN RACES USING THE PLANET EARTH— USING NEW YORK CITY AS A BATTLEFIELD.
"AND YOU, ALL OF YOU, STANDING RIGHT IN THEIR WAY.
"AT LEAST FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKED LIKE A *PURE* VICTORY.
"SOMETIMES, THESE BATTLES WE WAGE, THE FIGHTING CAN FEEL SOMEWHAT... COMPROMISED
"SHALLOW. CONFLICTED.
"BUT NOT THIS ONE. NO
"REALLY WISH I HAD BEEN MORE A PART OF IT.
"SIMON?"


"THIS—THIS MIGHT SEEM IN TERRIBLE TASTE TO SOME OF YOU, CONSIDERING...
"BUT I THOUGHT THE VISION MARRYING WANDA WAS—WELL...
"IT WASN'T THE MOST VICTORIOUS MOMENT, OR THE MOST HEROIC, BUT IT WAS THE *BEST* MOMENT.
"AND I THINK I'M GOING TO STICK TO MY GUNS ON THIS.
"I'M JUST GOING TO DECIDE TO REMEMBER THEM LIKE THIS.
"HANK?"


"REMEMBER THAT GUY... MICHAEL?
"KORVAC. YEAH
"KORVAC.
"THAT WAS THE ONE TIME--TO ME--THAT WAS THE ONE TIME I THOUGHT WE COULDN'T--NOT WOULDN'T, BUT *COULDN'T*--SAVE THE DAY
"BUT WE *DID*.
"THAT GUY HAD THE POWER OF THE UNIVERSE IN HIS HANDS AT LEAST HE *SAID* HE DID. WHO KNOWS?
"ANYWAY, IT LOOKED LIKE WE COULDN'T WIN, AND WE DID.
"AS A TEAM.
"WE SAVED THE UNIVERSE.
"THE *ENTIRE* UNIVERSE
"THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY DAMN GOOD DAY.
"CHEERS."

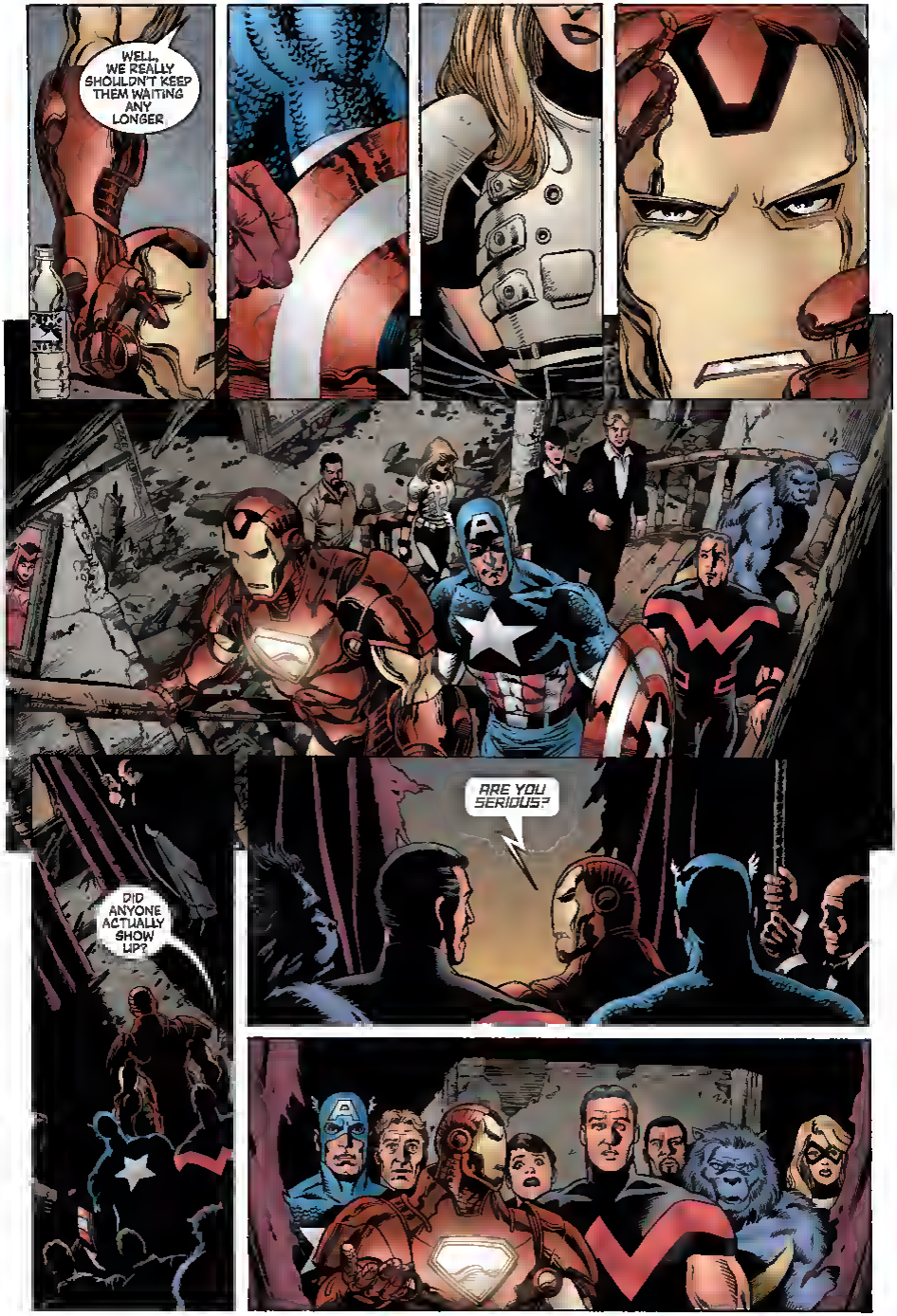

"HERE'S ONE THAT I PERSONALLY WASN'T EVEN AN AVENGER FOR, I WASN'T EVEN A SUPER HERO YET. I WAS JUST CAROL DANVERS.
"BUT WHEN YOU AND CAPTAIN MAR-VELL KICKED THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF THANOS.
"THE STORIES YOU GUYS TELL ABOUT THAT— THOSE ARE MY FAVORITE.
"THAT REALLY MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING.
"AND TRY DESCRIBING A SITUATION *THAT* FANTASTIC TO ONE OF YOUR CIVILIAN FRIENDS...
"THEY HAVE NO *IDEA* WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. THEY HAVE NO FRAME OF REFERENCE.
"ALSO, I THINK YOU ALL KNOW HOW INSPIRATIONAL MAR-VELL WAS TO ME IN MY DEVELOPMENT AS A SUPER HERO, OR WHATEVER I AM
"HEY, JARVIS? WHAT ABOUT YOU? I'D LIKE TO HEAR THIS..."


"OH, UM, I SUPPOSE I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR THE FISTICUFFS THAT TOOK PLACE RIGHT HERE WHEN THOSE VULGARIANS HAD THE AUDACITY TO FOUL THE MANSION WITH THEIR PRESENCE.
"THEY REFERRED TO THEMSELVES AS THE MASTERS OF EVIL, I DO BELIEVE.
"JUST REPULSIVE HUMAN BEINGS, EACH AND EVERY ONE.
"IN ALL THE TIME IT HAS BEEN MY HONOR TO SERVE THE AVENGERS IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY NEEDS, NEVER BEFORE HAD I FELT SO HELPLESS AND VIOLATED
"BUT THE AVENGERS WERE VICTORIOUS, AND THIS HUMBLE SERVANT'S LIFE WAS SPARED.
"THIS, YES, THIS TO ME ENDED UP BEING A LOVELY DAY."


"YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS IS FUNNY IN A WAY. BUT *MY* FAVORITE AVENGERS MOMENT WAS ONE THAT *THE FALCON* WASN'T AN AVENGER FOR EITHER.
"WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS THAT HALF OF US PICKED ADVENTURES WE WEREN'T PART OF?
"MAYBE. ALL SAID AND DONE. WE ALL LIKED THE *IDEA* OF THE AVENGERS MORE THAN ACTUALLY BEING *IN* IT.
"BUT FOR *ME*, WHEN WORD CAME OUT THAT YOU ALL FINALLY PUT THE HOLY BEAT-DOWN ON THAT ANNOYING PAIN-IN-THE-ASS ROBOT, ULTRON...
"...HOW GREAT MUST *THAT* HAVE FELT?
"I'M SURPRISED, ACTUALLY, THAT *YOU* DIDN'T PICK THIS ONE, PYM. CONSIDERING... (NO OFFENSE OR ANYTHING.)
"ULTRON. DOWN. LET'S HOPE HE STAYS DOWN.
"AND FOR A MINUTE THERE I THOUGHT--DURING ALL OF WANDA'S CHAOS WHEN THOSE ULTRONS APPEARED...
"...I THOUGHT *HE* WAS THE ONE BEHIND IT ALL AND THAT HE WAS *BACK!*
"SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME."
MNV / MORALES / MIII -2004-


NOW I WISH IT *WAS* HIM.
HIM. IT. WHATEVER.
CAP?
STEVE?
LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE
THE AVENGERS HAVE BEEN A PART OF MY LIFE SINCE THE VERY MOMENT I WOKE UP TO THIS NEW WORLD
AND EVEN WITH *ALL* THE DRAMA AND TRAGEDY THAT HAS ALWAYS SURROUNDED US
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT IT COULD EVER END.
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN

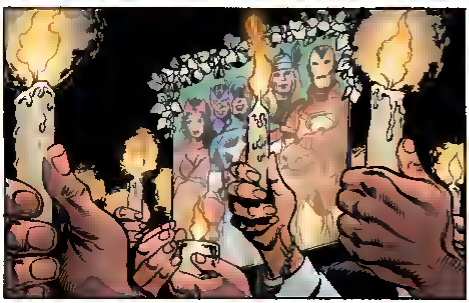

TO CLINT BARTON.
TO SCOTT LANG.
TO THE VISION.
TO MAR-VELL.
YES. TO JACK OF HEARTS. TO JACK HART.
SWORDSMAN.
MOCKINGBIRD.
YELLOWJACKET.
DOCTOR DRUID.
WHIZZER.
TWO-GUN KID.
GILGAMESH.
MARRINA.
THUNDERSTRIKE.
HOW ABOUT... ...TO ALL OF US. WANDA, TOO.

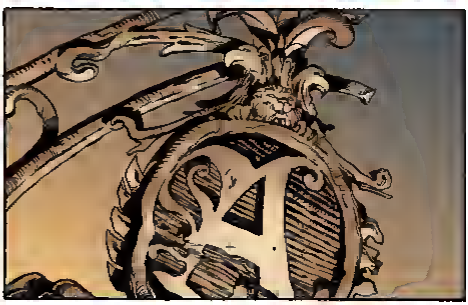

WELL, WE REALLY SHOULDN'T KEEP THEM WAITING ANY LONGER
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
DID ANYONE ACTUALLY SHOW UP?

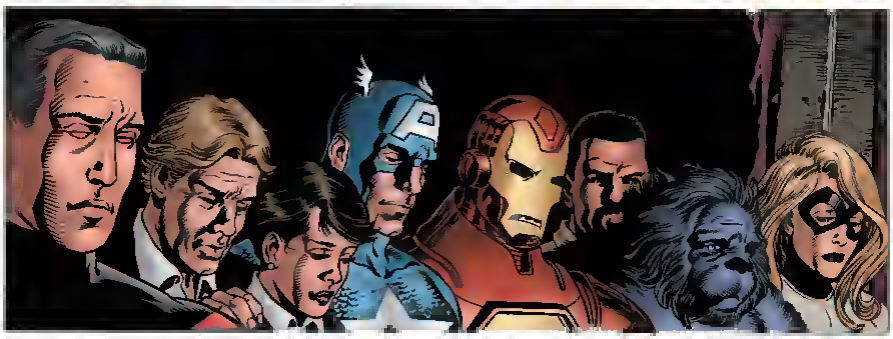





FEVER








OUR HEROES
NY ♥s THE AVENGERS!
AVENGERS FOR EVER
NEVER
AVENGERS FOR EVER
THE END

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Page 1: Dave Finch - pencil art
Danny Miki - ink art
Frank D'Armata - color art

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Frank D'Armata - color art

Pagas 6-9: Stave Epting - lina art
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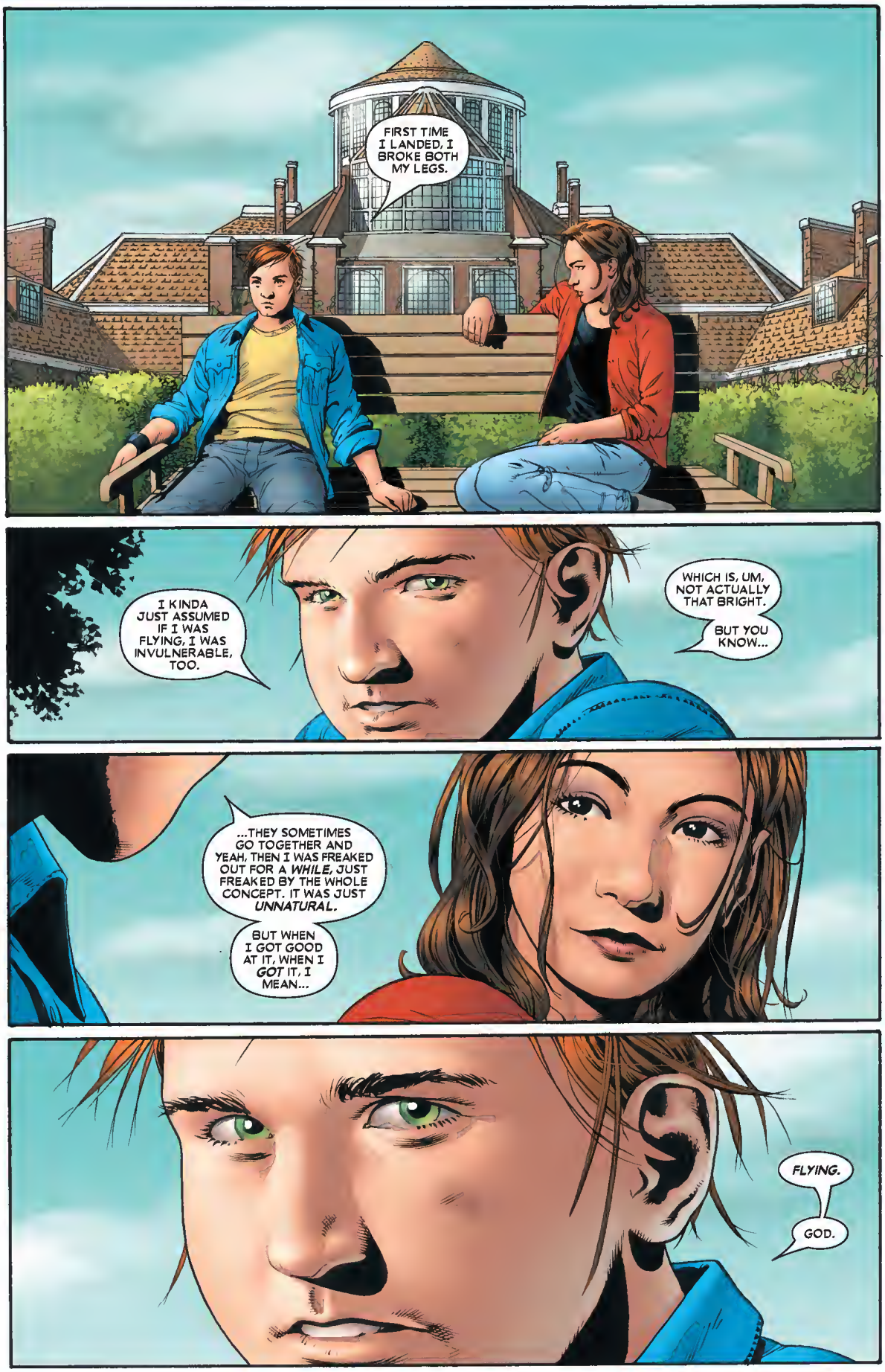
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PSR 3

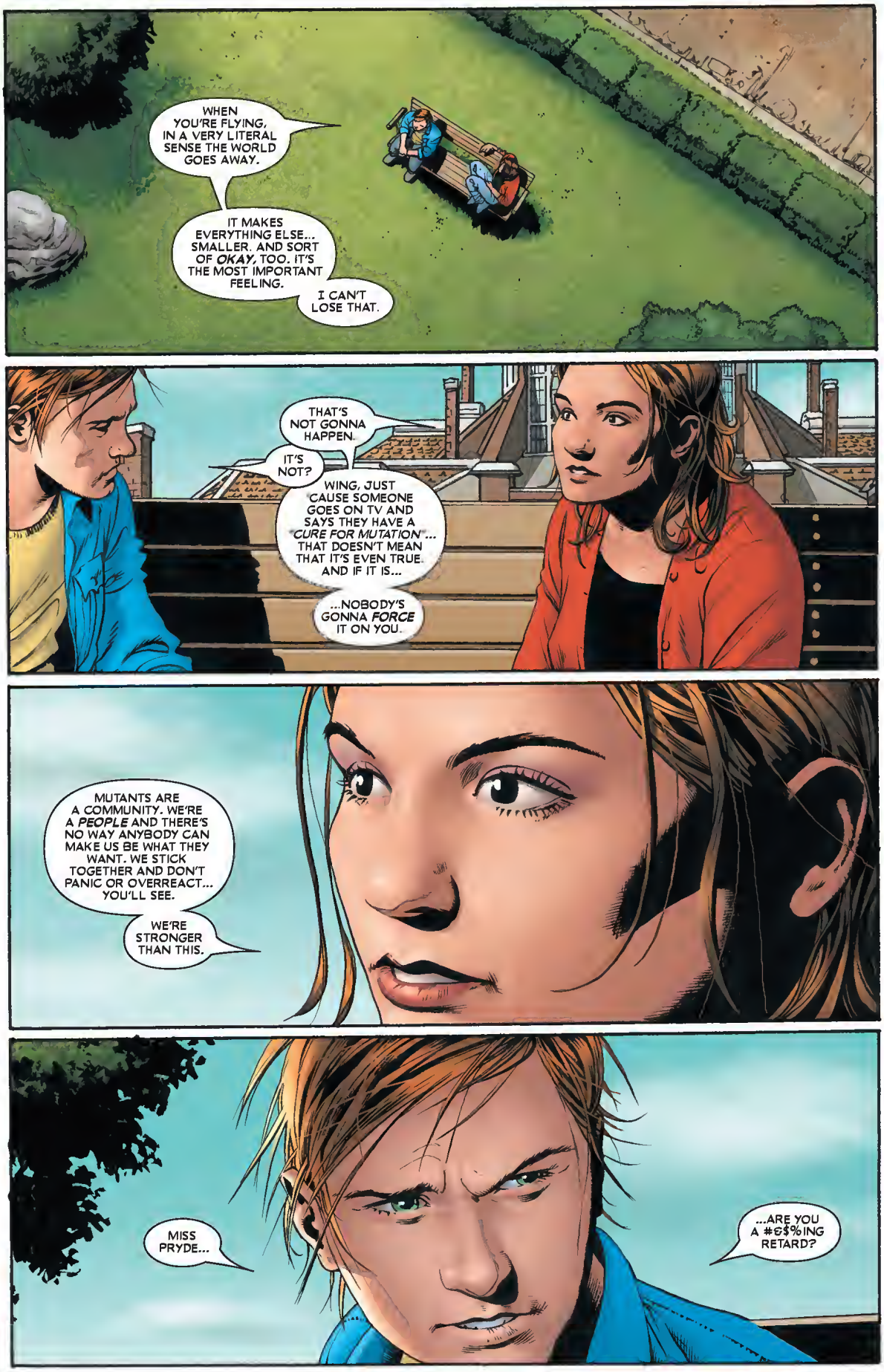
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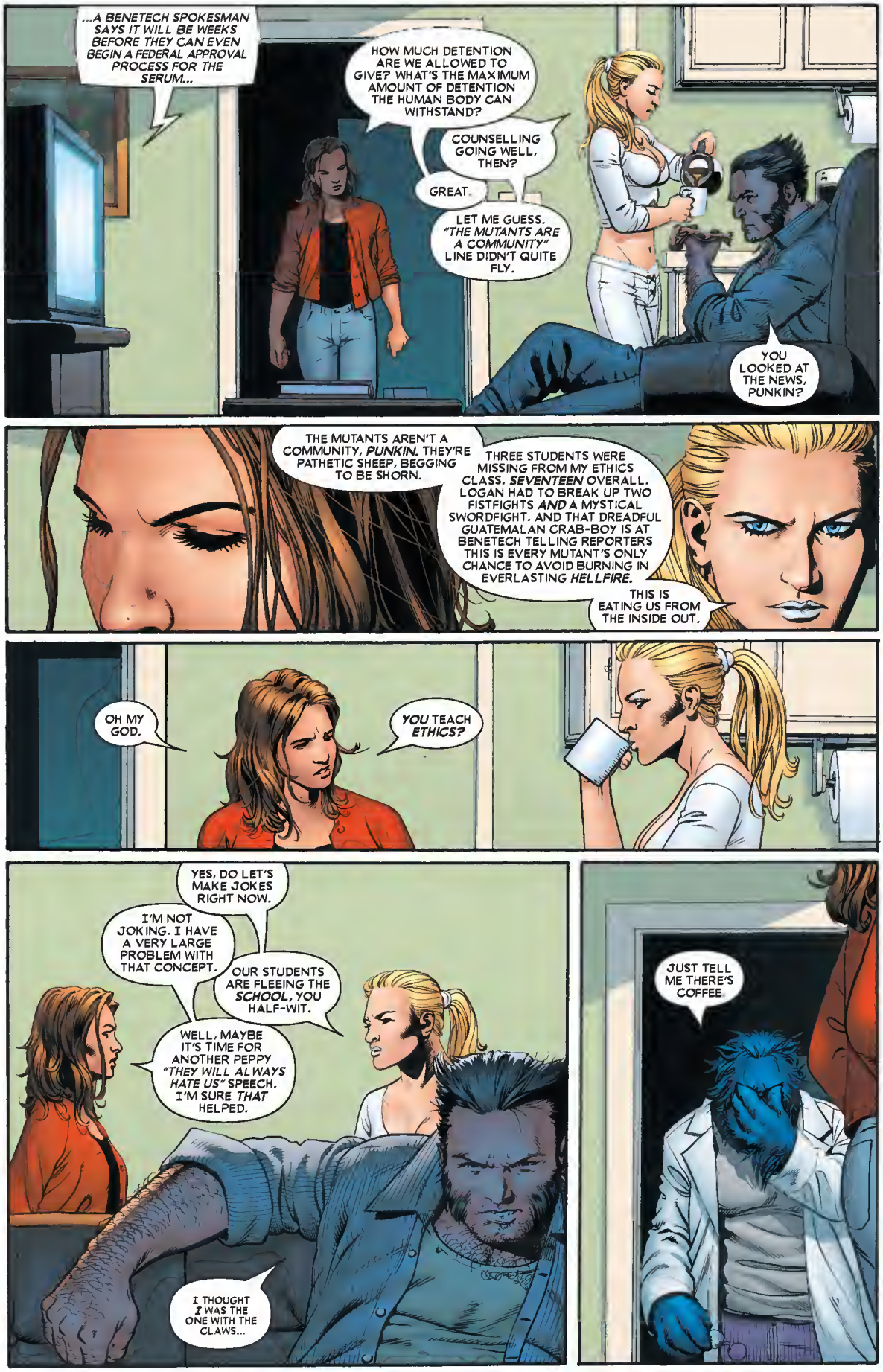
ASTONISHING X-MEN®




FIRST TIME I LANDED, I BROKE BOTH MY LEGS.
I KINDA JUST ASSUMED IF I WAS FLYING, I WAS INVULNERABLE, TOO.
WHICH IS, UM, NOT ACTUALLY THAT BRIGHT.
BUT YOU KNOW...
...THEY SOMETIMES GO TOGETHER AND YEAH, THEN I WAS FREAKED OUT FOR A *WHILE*, JUST FREAKED BY THE WHOLE CONCEPT. IT WAS JUST *UNNATURAL*.
BUT WHEN I GOT GOOD AT IT, WHEN I *GOT* IT, I MEAN...
FLYING.
GOD.


WHEN YOU'RE FLYING, IN A VERY LITERAL SENSE THE WORLD GOES AWAY.
IT MAKES EVERYTHING ELSE... SMALLER. AND SORT OF *OKAY*, TOO. IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT FEELING.
I CAN'T LOSE THAT.
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
IT'S NOT?
WING, JUST 'CAUSE SOMEONE GOES ON TV AND SAYS THEY HAVE A "*CURE FOR MUTATION*"... THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S EVEN TRUE. AND IF IT IS...
...NOBODY'S GONNA *FORCE* IT ON YOU.
MUTANTS ARE A COMMUNITY. WE'RE A *PEOPLE* AND THERE'S NO WAY ANYBODY CAN MAKE US BE WHAT THEY WANT. WE STICK TOGETHER AND DON'T PANIC OR OVERREACT... YOU'LL SEE.
WE'RE STRONGER THAN THIS.
MISS PRYDE...
...ARE YOU A #@$%ING RETARD?


...REPORTS THAT OVER SIXTEEN HUNDRED ALLEGED MUTANTS ARE LINED UP OUTSIDE BENETECH LABS DEMANDING THIS "CURE"...
BeneTech
ABORATORIES

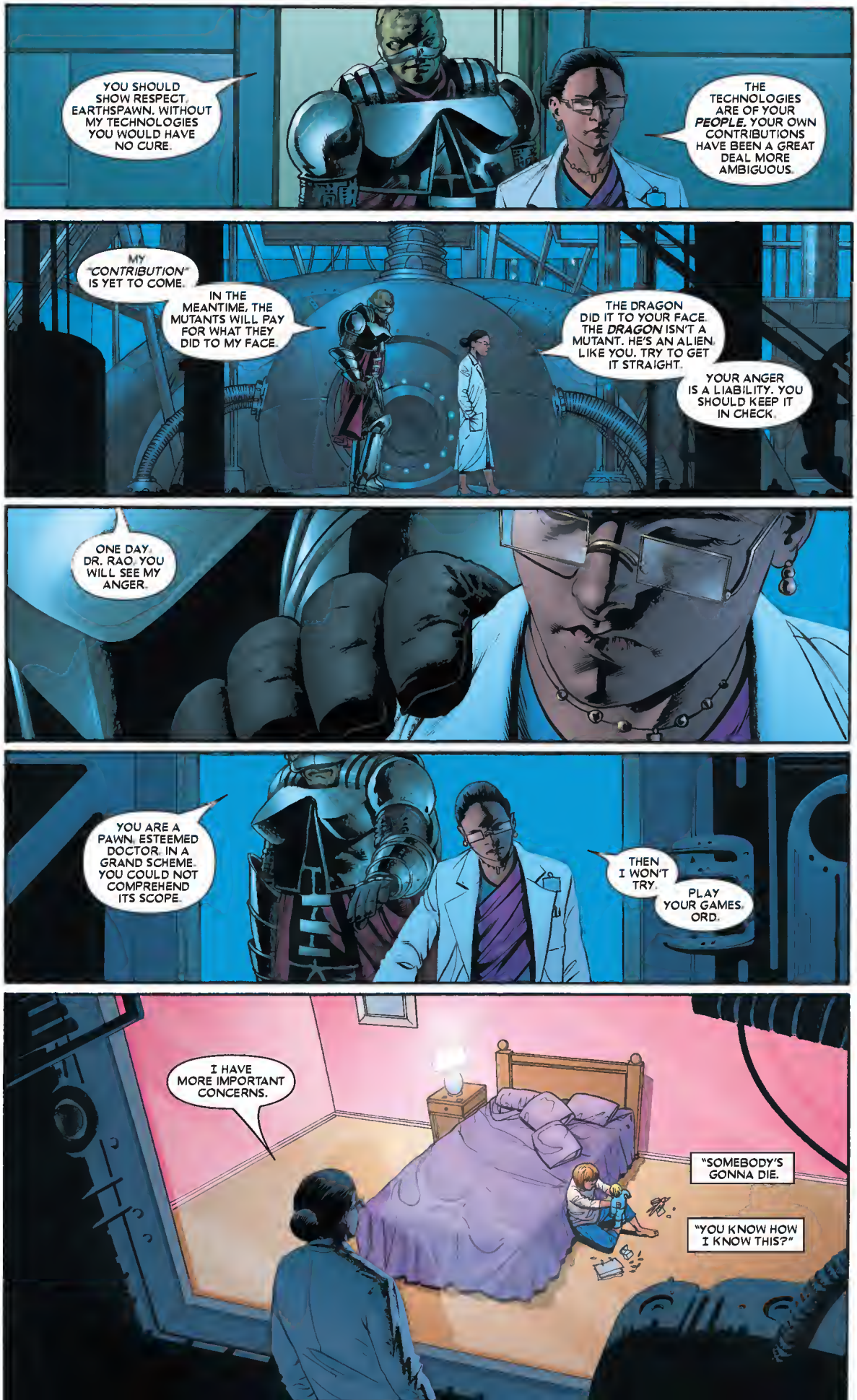

...A BENETECH SPOKESMAN SAYS IT WILL BE WEEKS BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN BEGIN A FEDERAL APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE SERUM...
HOW MUCH DETENTION ARE WE ALLOWED TO GIVE? WHAT'S THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DETENTION THE HUMAN BODY CAN WITHSTAND?
COUNSELLING GOING WELL, THEN?
GREAT.
LET ME GUESS. "THE MUTANTS ARE A COMMUNITY" LINE DIDN'T QUITE FLY.
YOU LOOKED AT THE NEWS, PUNKIN?
THE MUTANTS AREN'T A COMMUNITY, PUNKIN. THEY'RE PATHETIC SHEEP, BEGGING TO BE SHORN.
THREE STUDENTS WERE MISSING FROM MY ETHICS CLASS. SEVENTEEN OVERALL. LOGAN HAD TO BREAK UP TWO FISTFIGHTS AND A MYSTICAL SWORDFIGHT. AND THAT DREADFUL GUATEMALAN CRAB-BOY IS AT BENETECH TELLING REPORTERS THIS IS EVERY MUTANT'S ONLY CHANCE TO AVOID BURNING IN EVERLASTING HELLFIRE.
THIS IS EATING US FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
OH MY GOD.
YOU TEACH ETHICS?
YES, DO LET'S MAKE JOKES RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT JOKING. I HAVE A VERY LARGE PROBLEM WITH THAT CONCEPT.
OUR STUDENTS ARE FLEEING THE SCHOOL, YOU HALF-WIT.
WELL, MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER PEPPY "THEY WILL ALWAYS HATE US" SPEECH. I'M SURE THAT HELPED.
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE WITH THE CLAWS...
JUST TELL ME THERE'S COFFEE.


HAVE YOU BEEN UP ALL NIGHT?
LAB CHECKING OUT A SAMPLE OF DR. RAO'S MUTANT CURE SERUM.
HOW DID YOU--
SHE GAVE IT TO ME.
PERUVIAN BLONDE, FIRST BEANS OF THE SEASON. EMMA, YOUR TASTE NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS.
I WENT TO SEE KAVITA. SHE AGREED I SHOULD VERIFY HER RESULTS AND GAVE ME A SAMPLE.
I'LL BE A DAY AT MOST.


ARE YOU *INSANE?*

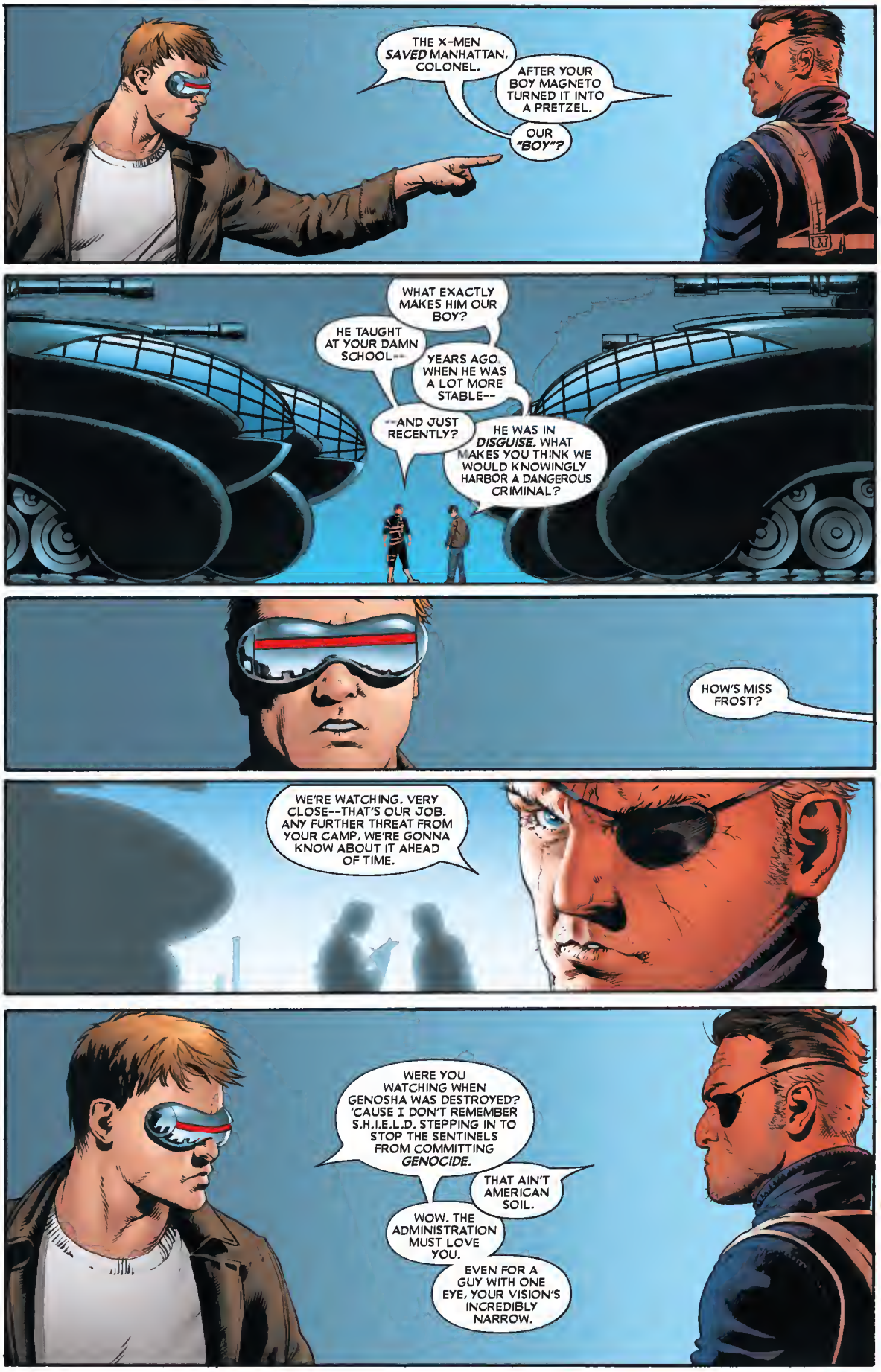

THE CASUAL OBSERVER WOULD PERHAPS NOT LOOK TO *ME* AS THE UNBALANCED ONE.
YOU GAVE THE X-MEN THE SERUM.
I GAVE AN OLD COLLEAGUE A SAMPLE. THEY WERE BOUND TO GET HOLD OF IT SOONER OR LATER ANYHOW.


YOU *KNOW* WHAT THE X-MEN ARE TO ME.
BESIDES AN EXCUSE TO GO AROUND BEHAVING LIKE A SUPER-VILLAIN?
I SAW YOUR *"DIVERSION"* ON THE NEWS. MERCENARIES. HIRED THUGS IN A ROOM FULL OF INNOCENT PEOPLE. IT'S INEXCUSABLE.


YOU SHOULD SHOW RESPECT, EARTHSPAWN. WITHOUT MY TECHNOLOGIES YOU WOULD HAVE NO CURE.
THE TECHNOLOGIES ARE OF YOUR *PEOPLE*. YOUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN A GREAT DEAL MORE AMBIGUOUS.
MY "*CONTRIBUTION*" IS YET TO COME.
IN THE MEANTIME, THE MUTANTS WILL PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO MY FACE.
THE DRAGON DID IT TO YOUR FACE. THE *DRAGON* ISN'T A MUTANT. HE'S AN ALIEN, LIKE YOU. TRY TO GET IT STRAIGHT.
YOUR ANGER IS A LIABILITY. YOU SHOULD KEEP IT IN CHECK.
ONE DAY, DR. RAO, YOU WILL SEE MY ANGER.
YOU ARE A PAWN, ESTEEMED DOCTOR. IN A GRAND SCHEME. YOU COULD NOT COMPREHEND ITS SCOPE.
THEN I WON'T TRY.
PLAY YOUR GAMES, ORD.
I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT CONCERNS.
"SOMEBODY'S GONNA DIE.
"YOU KNOW HOW I KNOW THIS?"


'CAUSE I'M GONNA KILL 'EM.
SO IT *IS* ONE OF YOURS.
THE CASING'S BEEN MODIFIED, BUT THE PACKAGE IS DEFINITELY S.H.I.E.L.D. DESIGN. EXPERIMENTAL, VERY NEW.
IF ONE OF THOSE CLOWNS HAD GOTTEN A ROUND OFF NEAR CIVILIANS ONCE IT WENT HOT...
WE MADE SURE THEY DIDN'T.
WHAT ARE A BUNCH OF SECOND-RATE MERCS DOING WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. WEAPONRY THAT ISN'T EVEN IN THE FIELD YET?
IF I KNEW THAT, I'D BE KILLING SOMEBODY ALREADY.
WELL THEN WHAT ARE A BUNCH OF SECOND-RATE MERCS DOING WITH A PSYCHOTIC ALIEN WARRIOR?
"ORD, OF THE *BREAKWORLD*." ANY BELLS?
YOU KNOW FOR SURE THIS GUY'S AN E.T.?
RIGHT NOW I DON'T KNOW MUCH.
SO HE COULD BE ANYTHING.
COULD EVEN BE A MUTANT.


AM I MISSING SOMETHING?
I JUST DON'T HAVE A LOT TO GO ON IS ALL.
YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS *"CURE"* THING, RIGHT? *"MUTANTS ARE A DISEASE"*?
THIS MONSTER SHOWS UP RIGHT WHEN ALL THAT COMES OUT, RUNNING A CREW CARRYING ***YOUR*** ORDNANCE, AND THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS ACCUSE HIM OF BEING ONE OF ***US***?
DON'T GET IN MY FACE, BOY. THAT AIN'T A RIGHT YOU'VE EARNED.
I LET YOU UP HERE 'CAUSE XAVIER'S GOT SOME CRED WITH THE POWERS AND HE SAYS YOU'RE IN CHARGE.
I'LL RUN THIS NAME DOWN. THIS ORD. AND I'LL SHARE WHATEVER I FIND.
BUT IF HE'S GOT SOME BEEF WITH YOUR X-TEAM, THAT PROBLEM'S NOT MINE.
AND IF YOU THINK ANYBODY HERE IS LOSING SLEEP OVER WHETHER OR NOT YOU MUTANTS MIGHT ALL SUDDENLY LOSE YOUR POWERS...
...THEN YOU AIN'T BEEN TO MANHATTAN LATELY.


THE X-MEN *SAVED* MANHATTAN, COLONEL.
AFTER YOUR BOY MAGNETO TURNED IT INTO A PRETZEL.
OUR *"BOY"*?
WHAT EXACTLY MAKES HIM OUR BOY?
HE TAUGHT AT YOUR DAMN SCHOOL--
YEARS AGO. WHEN HE WAS A LOT MORE STABLE--
--AND JUST RECENTLY?
HE WAS IN *DISGUISE.* WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE WOULD KNOWINGLY HARBOR A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL?
HOW'S MISS FROST?
WE'RE WATCHING. VERY CLOSE--THAT'S OUR JOB. ANY FURTHER THREAT FROM YOUR CAMP, WE'RE GONNA KNOW ABOUT IT AHEAD OF TIME.
WERE YOU WATCHING WHEN GENOSHA WAS DESTROYED? 'CAUSE I DON'T REMEMBER S.H.I.E.L.D. STEPPING IN TO STOP THE SENTINELS FROM COMMITTING *GENOCIDE.*
THAT AIN'T AMERICAN SOIL.
WOW. THE ADMINISTRATION MUST LOVE YOU.
EVEN FOR A GUY WITH ONE EYE, YOUR VISION'S INCREDIBLY NARROW.

I HEAR ABOUT THIS "ORD". I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL.
YOU KNOW THE WAY OUT.


WHAT DO YOU THINK HE KNOWS?
IT'S NOT CONCLUSIVE.
BUT THE SAMPLE LOOKS GOOD?
SO FAR IT HOLDS UP.
GET RID OF IT.
GET RID OF IT NOW OR I'LL GO THROUGH YOU TO DO IT.


EMMA.
SHE HAD NO RIGHT TO--
SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T HELP IT.
SHE SAID YOU WERE LIKE A BILLBOARD.
LIKE NEON.
BIG NEON SIGN. FLASHING.
"I WANNA GET OFF."
"I WANNA GET OUT."
IS THAT HOW IT GOES, McCOY? YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH? YOU WANNA SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES THEIR HALF-LIVES?
THE TRUTH IS THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT.
AND THAT IT IS NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS.
WRONG ANSWER.






YOU BEAST.


DON'T PUSH THIS, LOGAN.
I AIN'T LETTING YOU—
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM.
I USED TO HAVE FINGERS. I USED TO HAVE A MOUTH YOU COULD KISS, I WOULD WALK DOWN THE STREET AND...
MAYBE THIS IS THE SECONDARY STAGE OF MY MUTATION, OR MAYBE CASSANDRA NOVA WAS RIGHT.
MAYBE I'M DEVOLVING.
MY MIND IS STILL SHARP, BUT MY INSTINCTS, MY EMOTIONS...
...YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE OUT OF CONTROL.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, LOGAN?
WAIT UNTIL I'M LYING IN FRONT OF THE STUDENTS. PLAYING WITH A BALL OF STRING?
I AM A HUMAN BEING.
WRONG.
YOU'RE AN X-MAN.


SOME WEAK SISTER IN THE FRESHMAN DORM WANTS TO DROP HIS POWERS, I COULD CARE LESS. BUT AN X-MAN...
ONE OF US CAVES AND IT'S OVER.
IT'S AN ENDORSEMENT STAMP FOR EVERY SINGLE MUTANT TO BE LINED UP AND NEUTERED.
AND YOU KNOW THAT. YOU KNOW THAT!
SO EITHER FLUSH THAT JUNK DOWN THE JOHN RIGHT NOW...
SNIKT
...OR I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO A THROW-RUG.
LITTLE MAN...
ENOUGH!

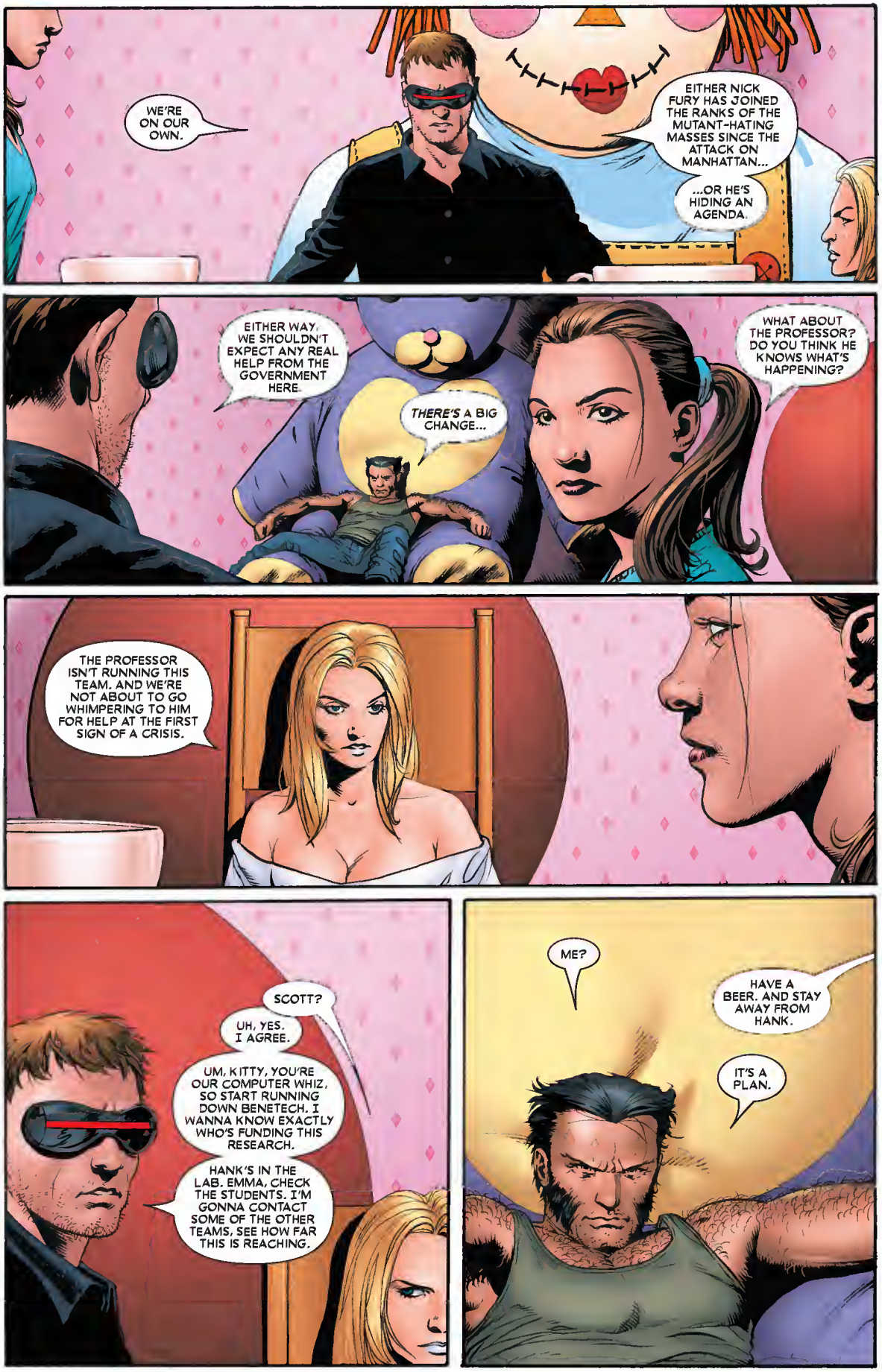


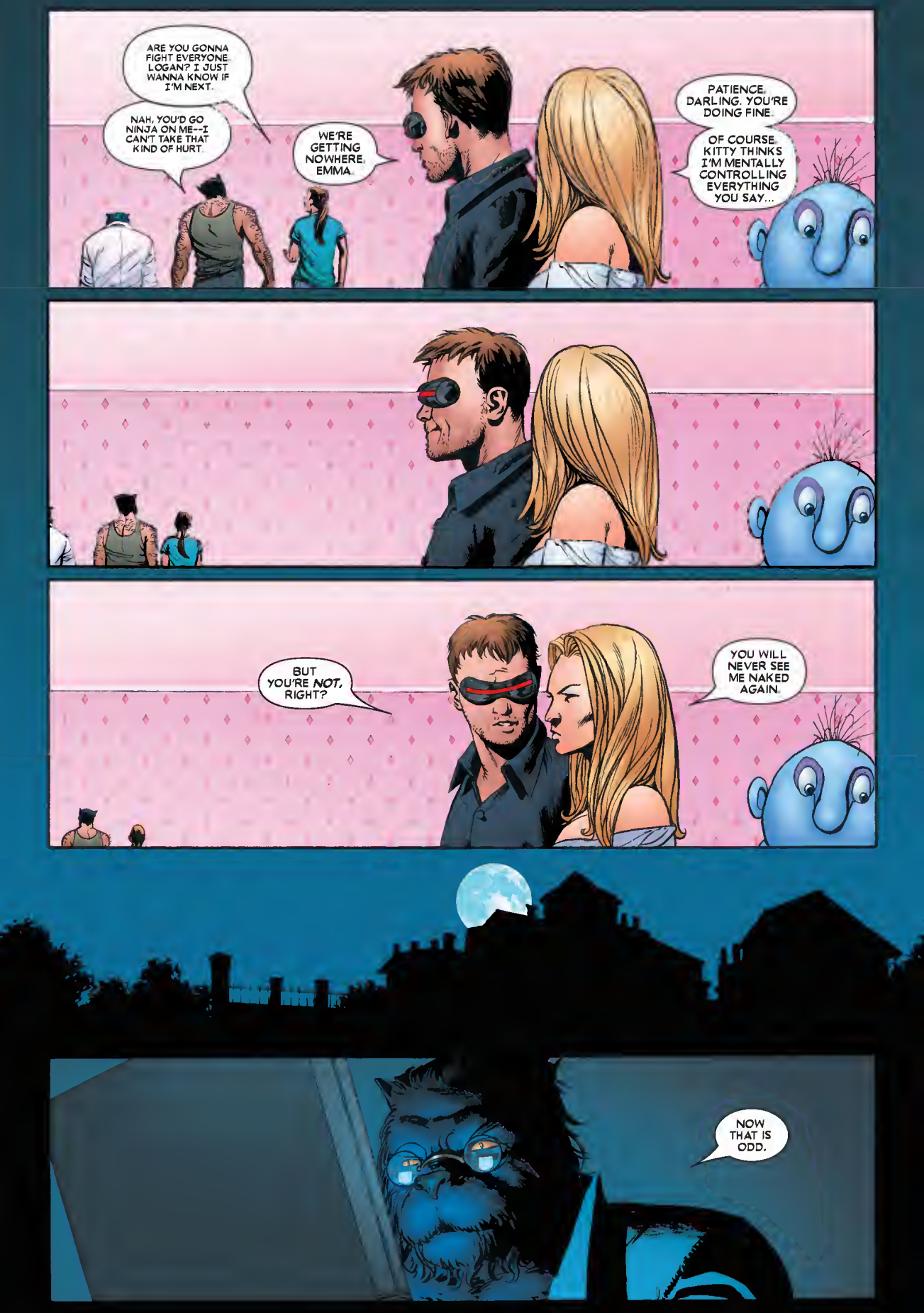



SO, WHAT-- THE TEACHERS SPEND ALL THEIR TIME HERE TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER?
THIS PLACE IS SO COOL.


BREAK.
AND BOW
VERY GOOD.
NOW GET INTO THE DANGER ROOM BEFORE I MAKE YOU BLOODY TANGO.


OH, THIS IS *REALLY* PUSHING IT.
I DIDN'T PROGRAM IT, BUT I HAPPEN TO FIND IT PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE.
I AM CLEARLY THE ONLY ADULT ON THIS ENTIRE TEAM.
SHE'S A TEACHER. ETHICS, AND ALL.
HANK, DO YOU THINK YOUR SAMPLE OF THE SERUM'S STILL VIABLE?
I THINK SO.
WHEN WE'RE DONE, FINISH YOUR ANALYSIS. LET'S NOT BE TEARING EACH OTHER APART OVER A FAKE.
AND IF IT WORKS?
THEN I'M TRUSTING YOU NOT TO DO ANYTHING TILL YOU'VE SPOKEN TO ME.
I HAVE TO SAY THAT I'M WITH LOGAN ON THIS. BUT IT'S YOUR LIFE. I'M JUST ASKING THAT WE TALK.
IS THAT FAIR?
WHAT DID FURY SAY?


WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
EITHER NICK FURY HAS JOINED THE RANKS OF THE MUTANT-HATING MASSES SINCE THE ATTACK ON MANHATTAN...
...OR HE'S HIDING AN AGENDA.
EITHER WAY, WE SHOULDN'T EXPECT ANY REAL HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT HERE.
THERE'S A BIG CHANGE...
WHAT ABOUT THE PROFESSOR? DO YOU THINK HE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE PROFESSOR ISN'T RUNNING THIS TEAM. AND WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO GO WHIMPERING TO HIM FOR HELP AT THE FIRST SIGN OF A CRISIS.
SCOTT?
UH, YES. I AGREE.
UM, KITTY, YOU'RE OUR COMPUTER WHIZ, SO START RUNNING DOWN BENETECH. I WANNA KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S FUNDING THIS RESEARCH.
HANK'S IN THE LAB. EMMA, CHECK THE STUDENTS. I'M GONNA CONTACT SOME OF THE OTHER TEAMS, SEE HOW FAR THIS IS REACHING.
ME?
HAVE A BEER. AND STAY AWAY FROM HANK.
IT'S A PLAN.


ARE YOU GONNA FIGHT EVERYONE, LOGAN? I JUST WANNA KNOW IF I'M NEXT.
NAH, YOU'D GO NINJA ON ME--I CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND OF HURT.
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE, EMMA.
PATIENCE, DARLING. YOU'RE DOING FINE.
OF COURSE. KITTY THINKS I'M MENTALLY CONTROLLING EVERYTHING YOU SAY...
BUT YOU'RE *NOT*, RIGHT?
YOU WILL NEVER SEE ME NAKED AGAIN.
NOW THAT IS ODD.


> CROSS-REFERENCE
DNA SAMPLE,
ARCHIVE 002
OH NO.
KAVITA, NO...
YOU MONSTER...
YOU GHOUL...
WE HAVE TO GO TO BENETECH.
NOW. TONIGHT.
THE CURE. IT'S REAL? IT'S WHAT-- DANGEROUS?
IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT.
IT'S ABOUT THE BODY THEY'RE RUNNING THEIR TESTS ON.

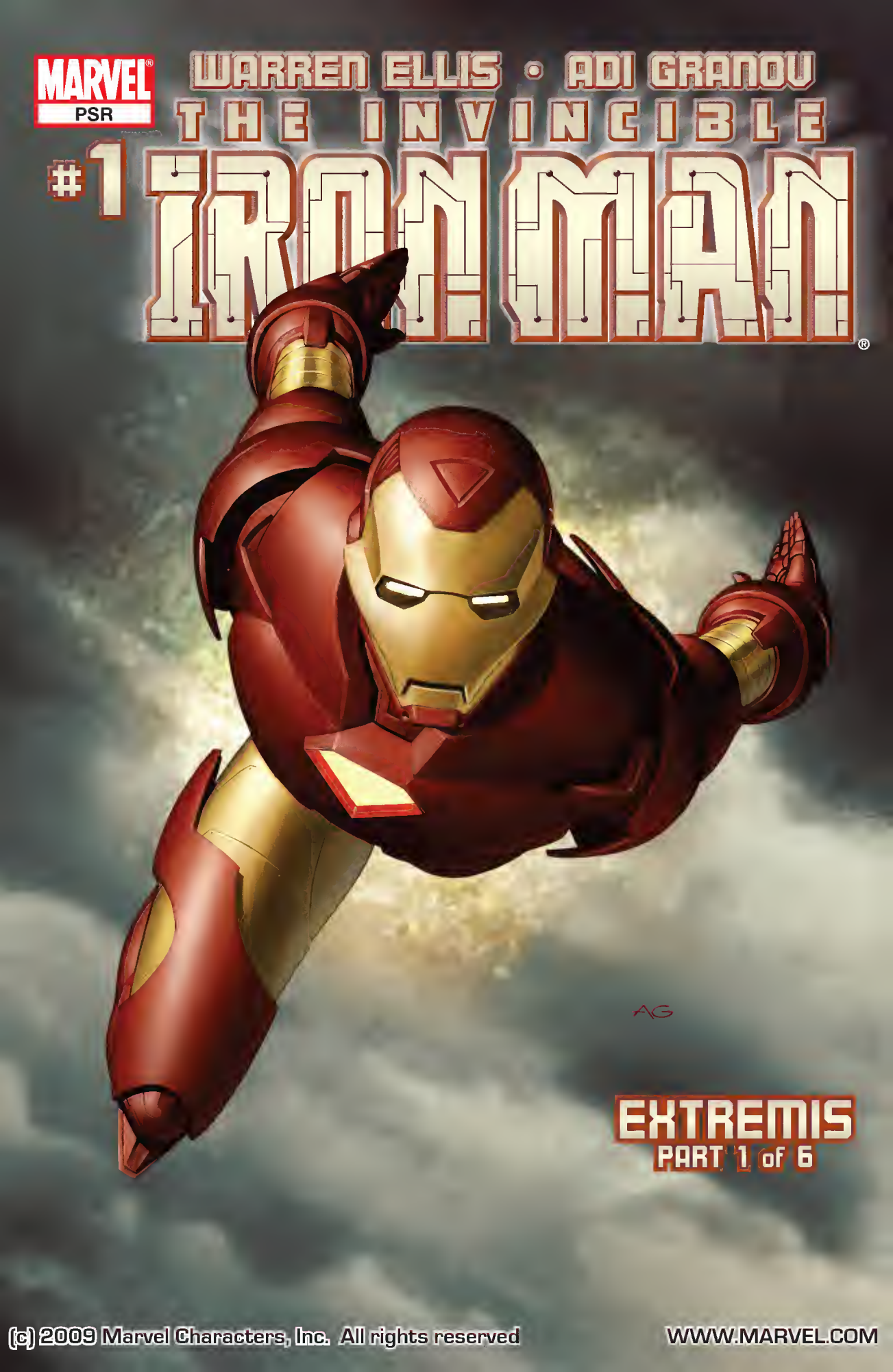

WHY DOES NOTHING EVER STAY BURIED...?


JEAN?

MARVEL
PSR

WARREN ELLIS • ADI GRANOV

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #1



EXTREMIS
PART 1 of 6

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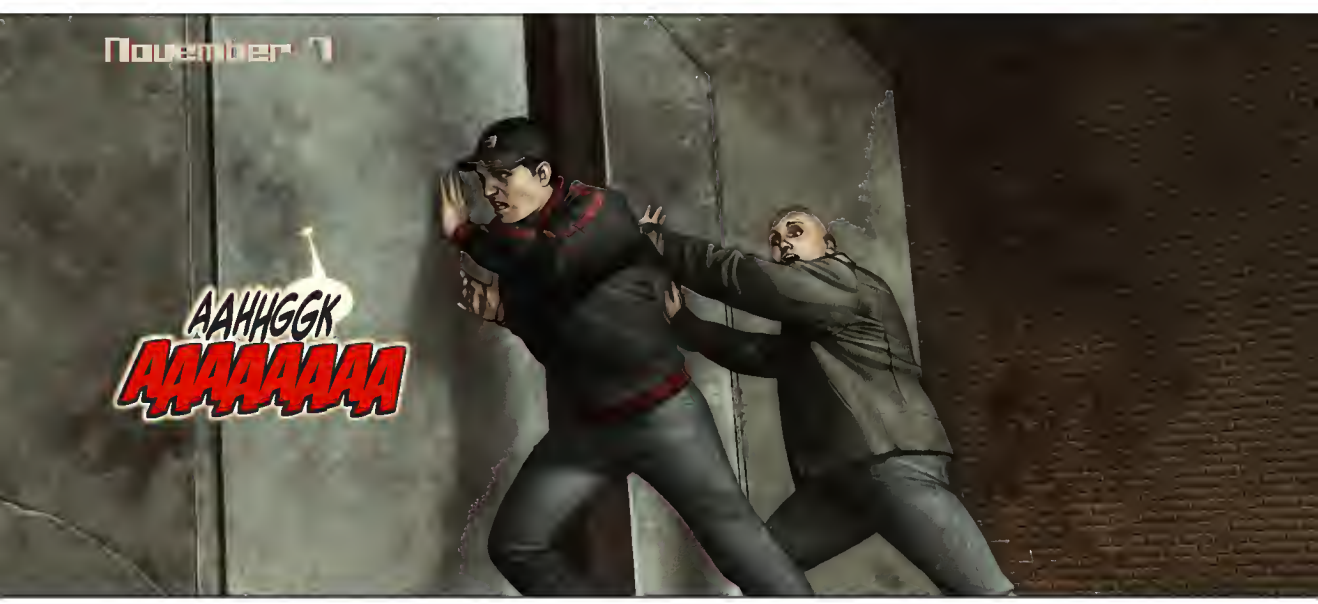
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MALLEN. YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THIS?
JUST DO IT.
PSST!


AAOWWW!
HNF
HNF
HNF
NOTHING'S HAPPENING, BECK.
SOMETHING SHOULD BE HAPPENING.
HGK
LISTEN, I, UH, I GUESS WE WERE SOLD A DUD.
GET YOUR BREATH BACK, WE'LL GET BACK IN NILSEN'S VAN, AND, Y'KNOW, START AGAIN.
HGKK
HURK


HHHEEEHHGGHH

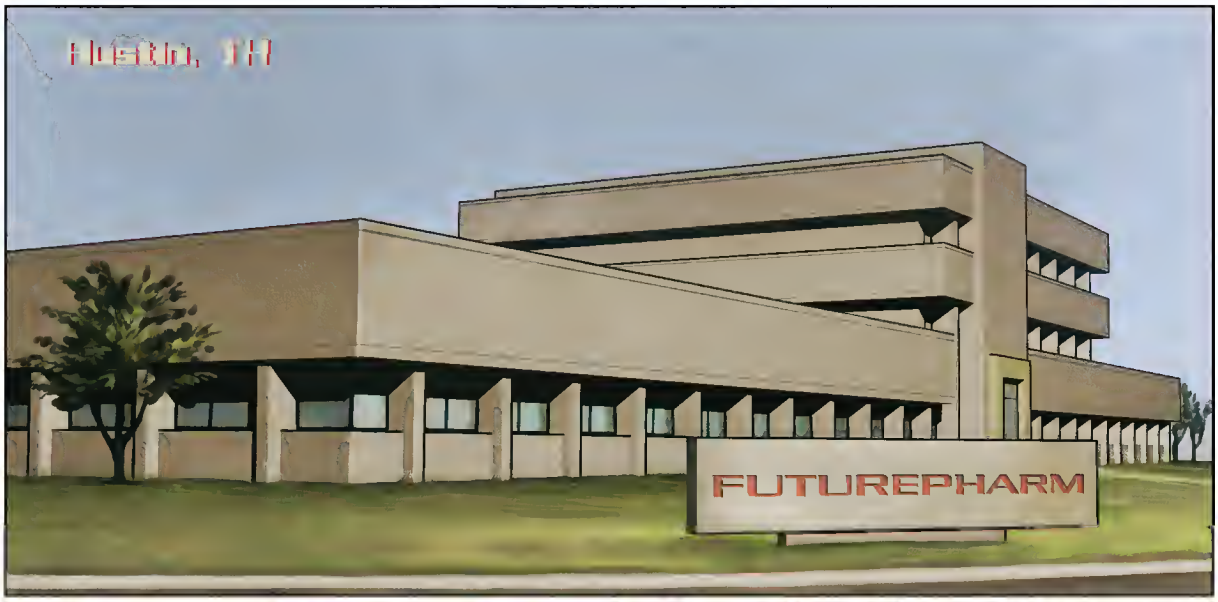

HURGL
HHRRGAAAHH

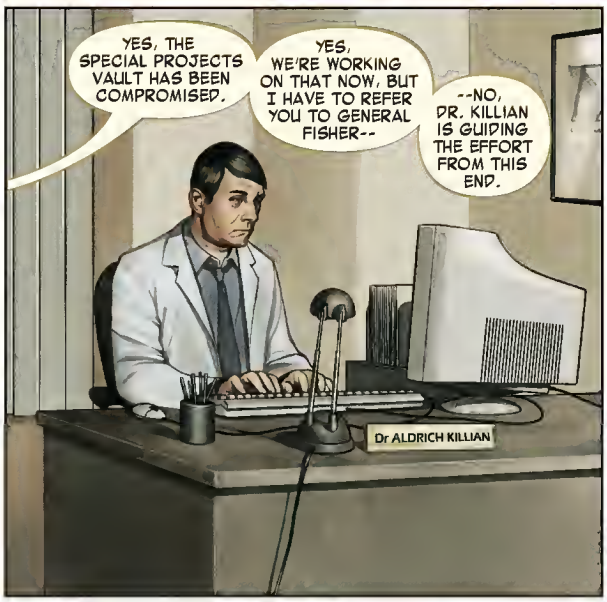

November 1
AAHHGGK
AAAAAAAA


November 5
BZZT!
BZZT!
YEAH.
MR. STARK?
YEAH.


DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?
NO.
THIS IS MRS. RENNIE. I'M YOUR PERSONAL SECRETARY. DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?
NO.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME OUT OF THAT DISGUSTING GARAGE AND GREET THE WORLD, MR. STARK.
BITE ME.
YOUNG MEN LIKE YOU USED TO RESPECT THEIR ELDERS, MR. STARK.
TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO WE USED TO SEND OUR ELDERS INTO THE DESERT TO DIE WHEN THEY STARTED BUGGING US.
AND NOW WE HAVE SALARIES AND WINNEBAGOS. LIFE IS TOUGH.
YOU HAVE THAT RIDICULOUS INTERVIEW SET FOR TEN.
PILLINGER? ALREADY?
YOU MADE THE APPOINTMENT NINE WEEKS AGO, MR. STARK.
OH GOD.
OKAY. WHAT'S THE TIME?
EIGHT A.M.
EIGHT. EIGHT IN THE MORNING.
YOU SADIST.
TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN TO THOSE WHO DON'T RESPECT THEIR ELDERS, MR. STARK.
BUT...I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING UNTIL YOU CALLED. YOU CALLED FIRST.
I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO DISRESPECT ME. I HAVE THE WISDOM OF AGE, MR. STARK.
I HATE YOU SO MUCH I CAN TASTE IT IN MY--
--OKAY. HAVE FRESH CLOTHES AND COFFEE SENT DOWN TO THE GARAGE. THE GALLON DRUM OF COFFEE.
AND POSSIBLY SOME KIND OF INTRAVENOUS DRIP.


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
I HATE IT WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.


Austin, TX
FUTUREPHARM


YES, THE SPECIAL PROJECTS VAULT HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.
YES, WE'RE WORKING ON THAT NOW, BUT I HAVE TO REFER YOU TO GENERAL FISHER--
--NO, DR. KILLIAN IS GUIDING THE EFFORT FROM THIS END.
Dr ALDRICH KILLIAN

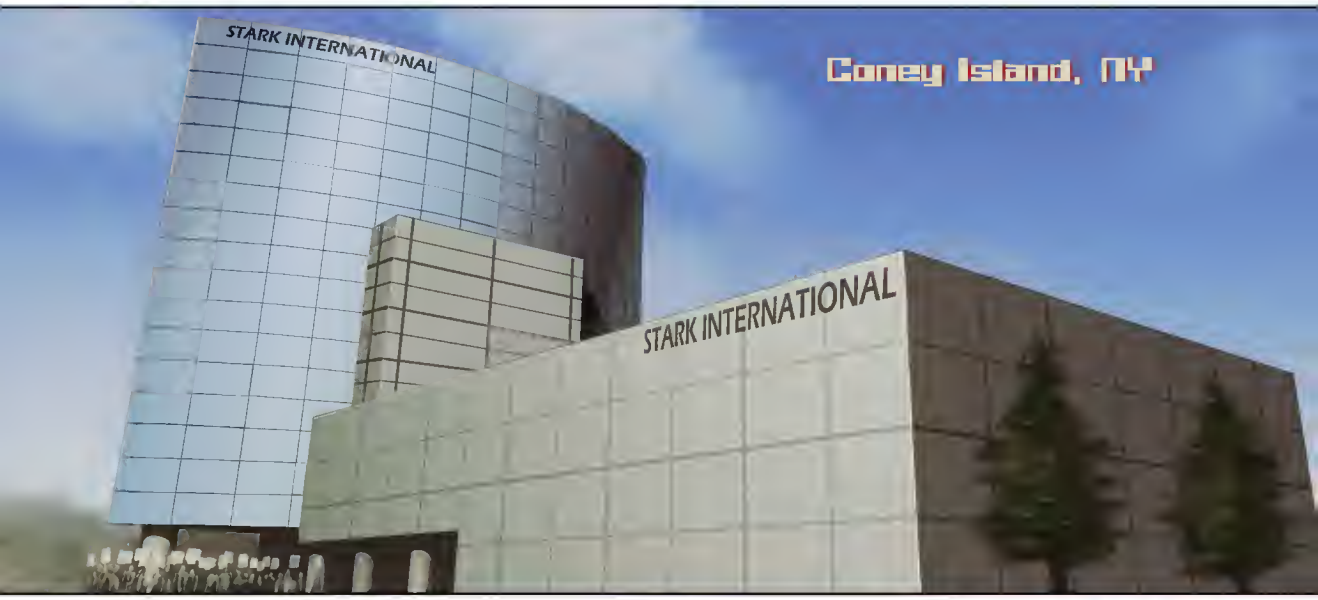

They know Extremis has been extracted from the vault. It's chaos, outside my blessed door.
This place is so badly organized: no one seems to be qualified to know what has been stolen or what to do about it.


Maya Hansen was in here earlier, shouting at me. She always shouts. Never happy.
It's only a matter of time before the thief is discovered and interrogated.


I won't get through an interrogation.
I know that I've loosed something terrible. Knowing that it had to be done, it doesn't ease the burden.


All the e-mails are on this machine. If you can find them, I can do that much
But understand. This had to be done
I'm shaking. Getting hard to type. Goodbye
End
Print
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE.
NEVER.
NO ONE'S EVER LOVED ME.


AL? THERE WAS A BANG--
OH. OH NO.
YOU. WE NEED, I DON'T KNOW, PARAMEDICS, THE POLICE, SOMETHING--
DR. KILLIAN'S SHOT HIMSELF, KILLED HIMSELF MAYBE. I THINK HE'S DEAD, PART OF HIS HEAD'S MISSING--
DR. HANSEN? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
HE'S SHOT HIMSELF IN THE HEAD AND IT WAS HIM.
HE STOLE THE EXTREMIS DOSE. THIS IS HIS, I DON'T KNOW, HIS CONFESSION.
HE STOLE THE EXTREMIS DOSE AND GAVE IT TO SOMEONE.


STARK INTERNATIONAL
Coney Island, NY
STARK INTERNATIONAL


GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE STARK DOES
STARK ARMS NEW WORLD ORDER
NO
"MY DAD USED TO TELL ME CONEY ISLAND WAS THE MOST FABULOUS PLACE IN THE WORLD."


THE AMUSEMENTS. THE FANTASTIC CONSTRUCTIONS.
PEOPLE BELIEVED THEY HAD TO BE LIVING IN THE FUTURE, TO BE ABLE TO VISIT A PLACE LIKE CONEY ISLAND.
AND AT NIGHT THEY WOULDN'T GO HOME. THEY'D SLEEP ON THE BEACH, SO THEY COULD WAKE UP IN THIS FUTURE PLACE.


THEY DON'T SLEEP ON THE BEACH ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY. MR. PILLINGER, YES?
JOHN PILLINGER. THANK YOU FOR THIS TIME.
NOT AT ALL. I'M AN ADMIRER OF YOUR DOCUMENTARIES, MR. PILLINGER. SHALL WE GET STARTED?
YOU'RE VERY KIND. GARY, YOU WANT TO GET SET UP?
IF YOU'RE SITTING THERE AND MR. STARK IS BEHIND HIS DESK, I'M COOL.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS FILM AGAIN, MR. PILLINGER?
"GHOSTS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY."
OKAY.
OKAY. GARY?
SPEED. IN YOUR OWN TIME, JOHN.
I'M HERE AT THE CONEY ISLAND OFFICES OF STARK INTERNATIONAL WITH THE COMPANY'S FOUNDER, CEO AND HEAD TECHNOLOGIST, ANTHONY STARK.
TONY'S FINE.

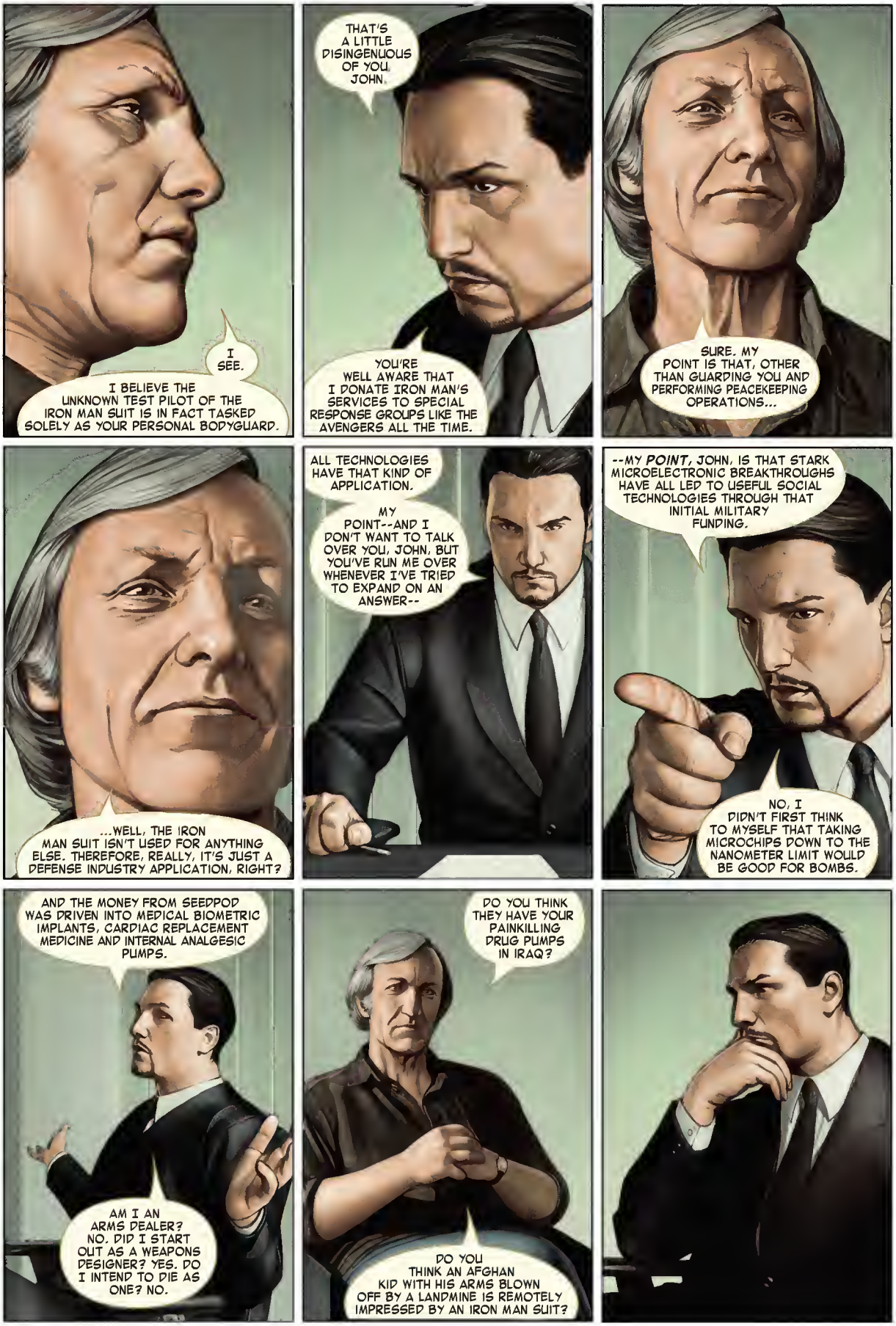

TONY.
WOULD IT BE FAIR TO DEFINE YOU AS AN ARMS DEALER?
I DON'T THINK SO. I MEAN, I WOULDN'T DENY THAT--
BUT YOU DO DESIGN AND SELL ARMS?
I WOULDN'T DENY THAT WE HAVE DESIGNED ARMS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY, OF COURSE.
IN FACT, STARK INTERNATIONAL WAS FOUNDED ON WEAPONEERING, I BELIEVE.
MY FIRST MAJOR CONTRACT WAS FOR THE U.S. AIR FORCE, YES.
WHAT WAS THAT CONTRACT?
MY INITIAL ENGINEERING INTEREST WAS IN MINIATURIZATION. THE USAF SAW APPLICATIONS IN MUNITIONS.
AND THAT WAS THE SEEDPOD BOMB, YES?
IT WAS. THE SAME PROCESS, HOWEVER, LED TO--
THE SEEDPOD WAS FIRST USED IN GULF WAR ONE? HOW OLD WERE YOU?
I WAS MAYBE NINETEEN. I FORGET.
NOW, CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT THE SEEDPOD DISPENSED HUNDREDS OF "SMART" MICROMUNITIONS FROM A MOTHER BOMB CASING, YES?
...YES. IT WAS INTENDED TO DESTROY AIRFIELDS AND CRIPPLE ARMORED CONVOYS.
DID THEY ALL WORK?
EXCUSE ME?
DID ALL OF THOSE BOMBLETS GO OFF AS ANTICIPATED?
YOU'D HAVE TO ASK THE MILITARY. WE NEVER GOT AN OPERATIONS REPORT ON EVERY SINGLE MICROMUNITION. THERE WERE TENS OF THOUSANDS--
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO LOOK AT THESE PICTURES.


EACH ONE OF YOUR BOMBLETS HAS THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE OF THREE STICKS OF DYNAMITE.
EIGHTEEN PERCENT OF THEM SUFFERED TIMER FAILURES. THEY'RE SCATTERED ACROSS THE THEATER OF CONFLICT.
CHILDREN FIND THEM, TONY.
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE STARK SENTINEL IS?
...IT'S A LANDMINE.
AGAIN, DESIGNED WHEN YOU WERE IN YOUR EARLY TWENTIES?
YES. MANY OF THEM FORM THE DEFENSIVE LINE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.
YOU'RE UNAWARE OF STARK LANDMINES IN, SAY, EAST TIMOR?
YES.
SENTINEL
REPORTEDLY, YOU YOURSELF WERE INJURED BY ONE OF YOUR OWN LANDMINES.
YES.


I'D BEEN ASKED TO LOOK AT WAYS TO CONTAIN AL QAEDA IN AFGHANISTAN. I WENT OUT THERE TO CONSULT.
THERE WAS A SKIRMISH WITH TALIBAN GUNMEN.




I'M FINE NOW, THANKS.
WAS THAT BEFORE OR AFTER YOU SOLD THE SUPERGUN TO A GULF STATE?
I'M AFRAID THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.
BUT YOU DID DESIGN A GUN WITH A HALF-MILE LONG BARREL INTENDED TO LOB TACTICAL NUCLEAR DEVICES SOME FOUR HUNDRED MILES?
I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT, BUT I'M UNDER RESTRICTIONS ON THAT SUBJECT.
I SEE. HOW MANY OF THESE DEVICES LED YOU TO THE DESIGN OF THE "IRON MAN" SUIT?
I THINK EVERYTHING WAS LEADING ME TOWARDS THE IRON MAN.
IS IT A MILITARY DEVICE?
I DON'T THINK SO.
BUT, IN KEEPING WITH YOUR OTHER INVENTIONS, IT CERTAINLY HAS MILITARY APPLICATIONS?
EVERYTHING HAS MILITARY APPLICATIONS. ALL TOOLS HAVE A DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL.
LASER ARRAY FOR RECORDING SOUND
OFF WINDOW GLASS VI
AND THE IRON MAN SUIT CERTAINLY POSSESSES AWESOME DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL, DOESN'T IT?
I MEAN, I DON'T SEE A BENIGN SIDE TO YOUR PATENTED "REPULSOR" TECHNOLOGY.
ACTUALLY, THE REPULSOR HAS APPLICATION TO CHEAP, NON-CHEMICAL SPACELAUNCH.
I SEE. AND ARE YOU DEVELOPING THAT?
...NOT AT THIS TIME.


I SEE.
I BELIEVE THE UNKNOWN TEST PILOT OF THE IRON MAN SUIT IS IN FACT TASKED SOLELY AS YOUR PERSONAL BODYGUARD.
THAT'S A LITTLE DISINGENUOUS OF YOU, JOHN.
YOU'RE WELL AWARE THAT I DONATE IRON MAN'S SERVICES TO SPECIAL RESPONSE GROUPS LIKE THE AVENGERS ALL THE TIME.
SURE. MY POINT IS THAT, OTHER THAN GUARDING YOU AND PERFORMING PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS...
...WELL, THE IRON MAN SUIT ISN'T USED FOR ANYTHING ELSE. THEREFORE, REALLY, IT'S JUST A DEFENSE INDUSTRY APPLICATION, RIGHT?
ALL TECHNOLOGIES HAVE THAT KIND OF APPLICATION.
MY POINT--AND I DON'T WANT TO TALK OVER YOU, JOHN, BUT YOU'VE RUN ME OVER WHENEVER I'VE TRIED TO EXPAND ON AN ANSWER--
--MY *POINT,* JOHN, IS THAT STARK MICROELECTRONIC BREAKTHROUGHS HAVE ALL LED TO USEFUL SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH THAT INITIAL MILITARY FUNDING.
NO, I DIDN'T FIRST THINK TO MYSELF THAT TAKING MICROCHIPS DOWN TO THE NANOMETER LIMIT WOULD BE GOOD FOR BOMBS.
AND THE MONEY FROM SEEDPOD WAS DRIVEN INTO MEDICAL BIOMETRIC IMPLANTS, CARDIAC REPLACEMENT MEDICINE AND INTERNAL ANALGESIC PUMPS.
AM I AN ARMS DEALER? NO. DID I START OUT AS A WEAPONS DESIGNER? YES. DO I INTEND TO DIE AS ONE? NO.
DO YOU THINK THEY HAVE YOUR PAINKILLING DRUG PUMPS IN IRAQ?
DO YOU THINK AN AFGHAN KID WITH HIS ARMS BLOWN OFF BY A LANDMINE IS REMOTELY IMPRESSED BY AN IRON MAN SUIT?

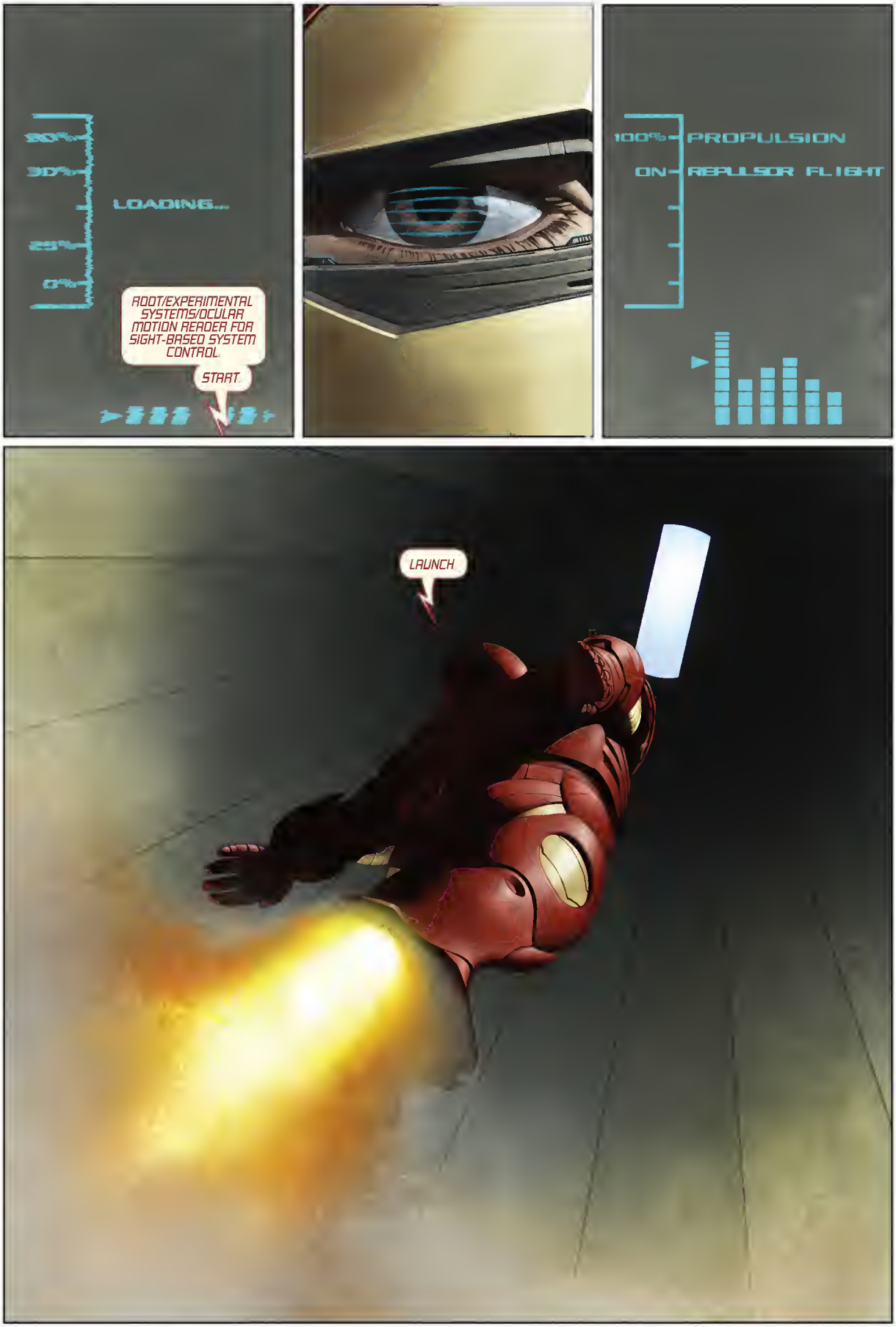

I NEVER CLAIMED TO BE PERFECT. I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WOULD BE BLOOD ON MY HANDS. I'M TRYING...
...I'M TRYING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD.
IMPROVE THE WORLD. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.
I'M CURIOUS, ACTUALLY. IF YOU KNOW MY WORK, WHY DID YOU AGREE TO THIS INTERVIEW?
ME FIRST. WHY AM I A GHOST OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY?
BECAUSE YOUR ARMS WORK OF THE NINETIES STILL HAUNTS THE POVERTY- AND WAR-STRICKEN COUNTRIES THEY WERE DEPLOYED IN.
I WANTED TO MEET YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING YOUR INVESTIGATIVE FILMS FOR WHAT, TWENTY YEARS NOW? I WANTED TO ASK:
HAVE YOU CHANGED ANYTHING?
YOU'VE BEEN UNCOVERING DISTURBING THINGS ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR TWENTY YEARS NOW. HAVE YOU CHANGED ANYTHING?
YOU'VE WORKED VERY HARD. MOST PEOPLE HAVE NO IDEA OF THE KIND OF WORK YOU'VE DONE.
INTELLECTUALS, CRITICS AND ACTIVISTS FOLLOW YOUR FILMS CLOSELY, BUT CULTURALLY YOU'RE ALMOST INVISIBLE, MR. PILLINGER.
HAVE YOU CHANGED ANYTHING?
I DON'T KNOW.
ME NEITHER. IT'S BEEN AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, MR. PILLINGER.
...YES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, MR. STARK.


Bastrop, TH


MR. STARK, SINCE YOU'VE REJOINED THE LIVING, I'VE SCHEDULED A SENIOR STAFF MEETING FOR--
CANCEL IT.
I'M GOING BACK DOWN TO THE GARAGE.
--NO, GEOFF. WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE INTERVIEW LATER.
I'M WELL AWARE THAT BILL STEPPED DOWN AS CEO OF MICROSOFT AND TOOK A "CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST" TITLE--
--ALL RIGHT. SENIOR STAFF AT FOUR. BUT NOW I NEED TO BE IN THE GARAGE.
STARK VOICELOG: RECORD: DATESTAMP.
JOHN PILLINGER SAYS THE IRON MAN SUIT IS A MILITARY APPLICATION.
I TOLD HIM HE WAS WRONG. I'M TRYING TO DECIDE IF I WAS LYING.
I'VE NEVER SOLD ANY ELEMENT OF THE IRON MAN TO THE MILITARY.
IT'S USED FOR EXTRAORDINARY RESCUE AND RESPONSE SITUATIONS.
IRON MAN SAVES LIVES.
IRON MAN USED TO REPRESENT THE FUTURE.

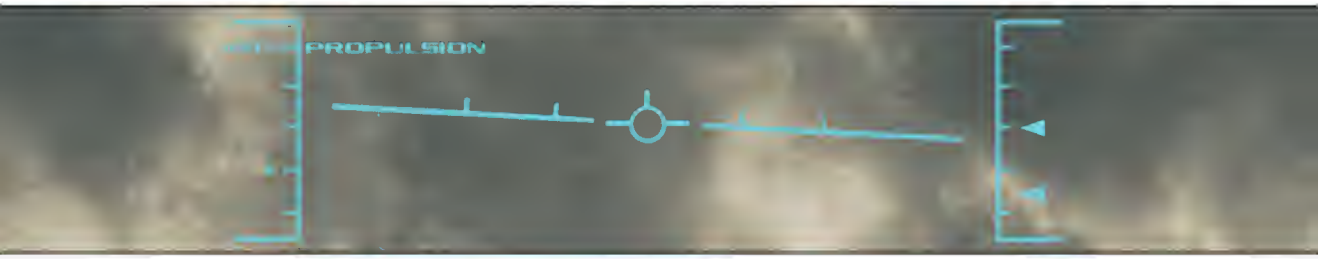

STARK VOICELOG: RECORD: DATESTAMP.
HARD TO BELIEVE I USED TO BE ABLE TO FIT THIS INTO A BRIEFCASE.

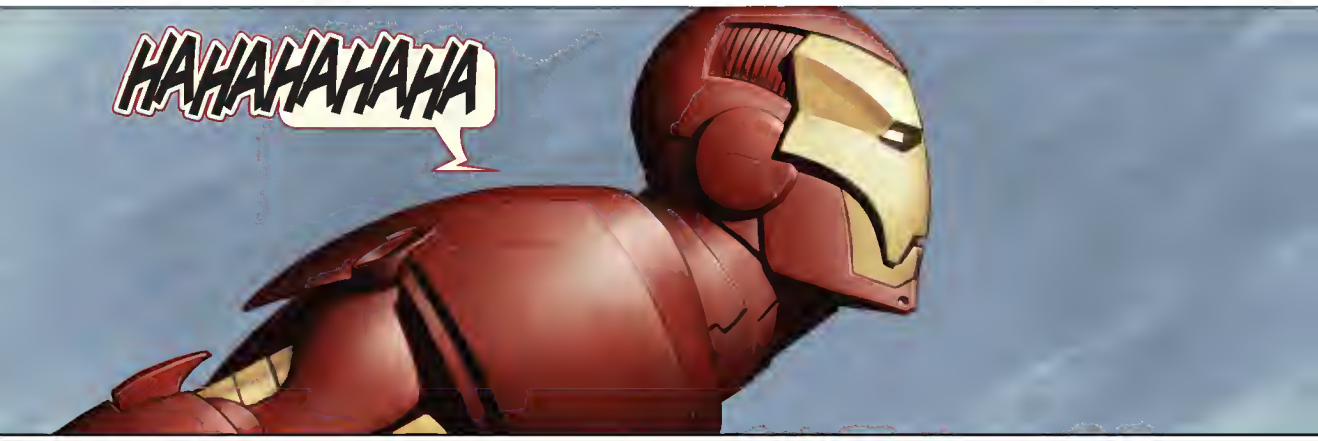

THAT LANDMINE PUT SHRAPNEL TWO CENTIMETERS FROM MY HEART. MY EVERY MOVEMENT ALLOWED IT TO INCH CLOSER.
I HAD TO DESIGN A SYSTEM TO HOLD THE SHRAPNEL WHERE IT WAS, AND INCORPORATE IT INTO A SELF-DEFENSE SOLUTION TO GET ME OUT OF CAPTIVITY.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D HAD TO DESIGN SOMETHING THAT SAVED LIVES.
IT WAS A STOPGAP AT BEST. I GOT HOME AND PUT MY MONEY INTO A SUIT THAT'D KEEP ME ALIVE.
I SPENT YEARS IN VARIOUS VERSIONS OF THIS BREASTPLATE HOLDING THE SHRAPNEL IN MAGNETIC FIELDS.
UNTIL MEDICAL SCIENCE CAUGHT UP WITH ME, AND I COULD GET THE DAMN THING OUT.
BUT I KEPT THE SUIT. KEPT TINKERING WITH IT.
AND I'M NOT SURE WHY ANY-MORE.
EXCEPT MAYBE THAT IT WASN'T ABOUT *THE* FUTURE, BUT *MY* FUTURE.
AND IT ALLOWED ME TO PRETEND THAT I WASN'T A MAN WHO MADE LANDMINES.
I WENT FROM BEING A MAN TRAPPED IN AN IRON SUIT TO BEING A MAN FREED BY IT.
IRON MAN COMMAND SYSTEM ON.
START.


LOADING...
ROOT/EXPERIMENTAL SYSTEMS/OCULAR MOTION READER FOR SIGHT-BASED SYSTEM CONTROL.
START.
100%
PROPULSION
ON
REPULSOR FLIGHT
LAUNCH.


GUNS DON'T
KILL PEOPLE
STARK DOES


IRON MAN.
NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE.
IRON MAN'S COOL.


PROPULSION


HAHAHAHAHA




PROPULSION
REPULSOR FLIGHT SYSTEM


I SWEAR. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE IN A SUIT.
MAKES YOU LOOK TWENTY YEARS OLDER.
I'M HERE TO WORK. I RUN A CORPORATION.
THE REST OF US ARE HERE TO TALK, YOU KNOW.
YEAH, I KIND OF WORKED THAT OUT. LOTS AND LOTS OF TALK.
TALKING ABOUT REPURPOSING ROBOT VACUUM CLEANERS FOR MILITARY WORK. TALKING ABOUT CONSUMER SATELLITE TELEPHONY. GOD.
YOU DON'T LIKE TALKING?
I LIKE TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT'LL WORK.
I LIKE TALKING ABOUT GENUINE OUTBREAKS OF THE FUTURE. NOT VACUUM CLEANER DEATH MACHINES AND SATPHONES NO ONE WILL BUY.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ABOUT CONSUMER GOODS?
WHY DO WE ASSUME THE FUTURE IS ONLY A RETAIL OPPORTUNITY?
I DUNNO. IT BUGS ME.
YOU'RE WEIRD.
WHY?
LOOK AT YOU.

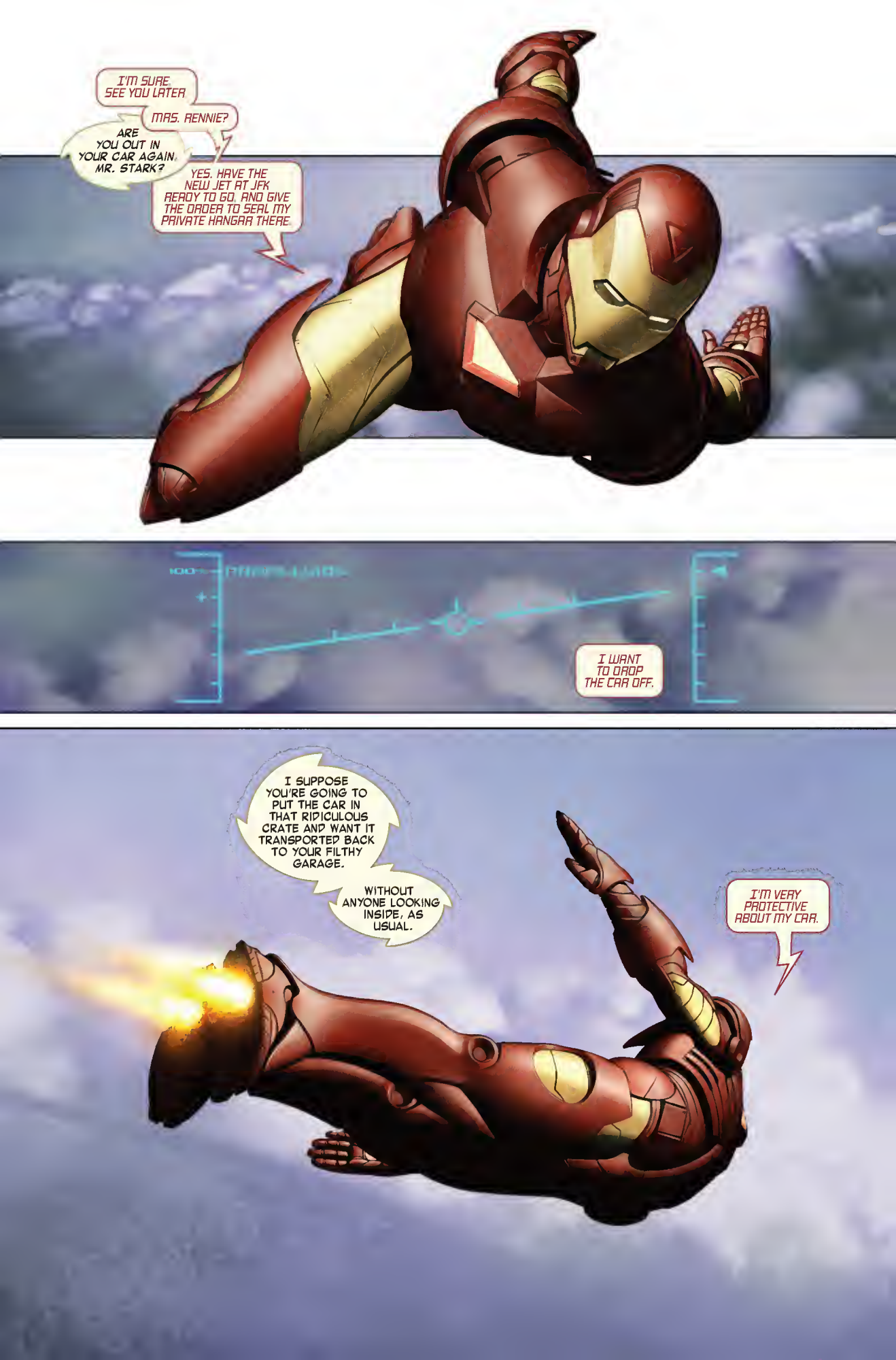

BARELY OUT OF YOUR TWENTIES. IN A SUIT AT AN EMERGENT TECH CONFERENCE. COMPLAINING ABOUT CONSUMER SOCIETY.
AND YOU GOT YOUR MONEY FROM THE MILITARY.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
EVERYONE HERE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE.
HUH. I THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S SAID TWO WORDS TO ME.
THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF YOU.
YOU REINVENTED MICROTECHNOLOGY IN YOUR DAD'S GARAGE. YOUR BRAIN IS LIKE THREE FEET OVER THE HEADS OF EVERYONE ELSE HERE.
YOU'RE TONY STARK. I'M MAYA HANSEN.
THE MEDICAL DESIGNER? REPROGRAMMING THE REPAIR CENTER?
RIGHT.
HEY. SAL KENNEDY'S ABOUT TO TALK. YOU WANT TO COME SEE IT WITH ME?
WHO'S HE?
KENNEDY? STARTED OUT AS A COMPUTER GUY, BECAME AN ETHNOBOTANIST, WORKS AS A FUTURIST NOW.
SOUNDS LIKE IT'D AT LEAST BE INTERESTING.
SO COME ON.
AND LOOSEN YOUR TIE.


TONY STARK'S OFFICE, PLEASE.
NO, TELL HIM IT'S MAYA HANSEN, AND REMIND HIM OF THE LOUSY PUB DEAL AT TECHWEST.


THE LOUSY PUB AT TECHWEST?
WHERE WE PROMISED WE'D ALWAYS TAKE EACH OTHER'S CALLS AND IMS.
OVER BEER WE WERE CONVINCED SOMEONE ELSE HAD ALREADY DIGESTED AND PASSED.


TONY, I REALLY NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED HERE. AND...WELL. IT FEELS LIKE THE LAST STRAW.
WHERE ARE YOU, MAYA?


FUTUREPHARM. THE MAIN LABS, OUTSIDE AUSTIN.
YOU'RE SURE?
I'M HEADED OUT TO MY PRIVATE JET NOW. I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW HOURS.

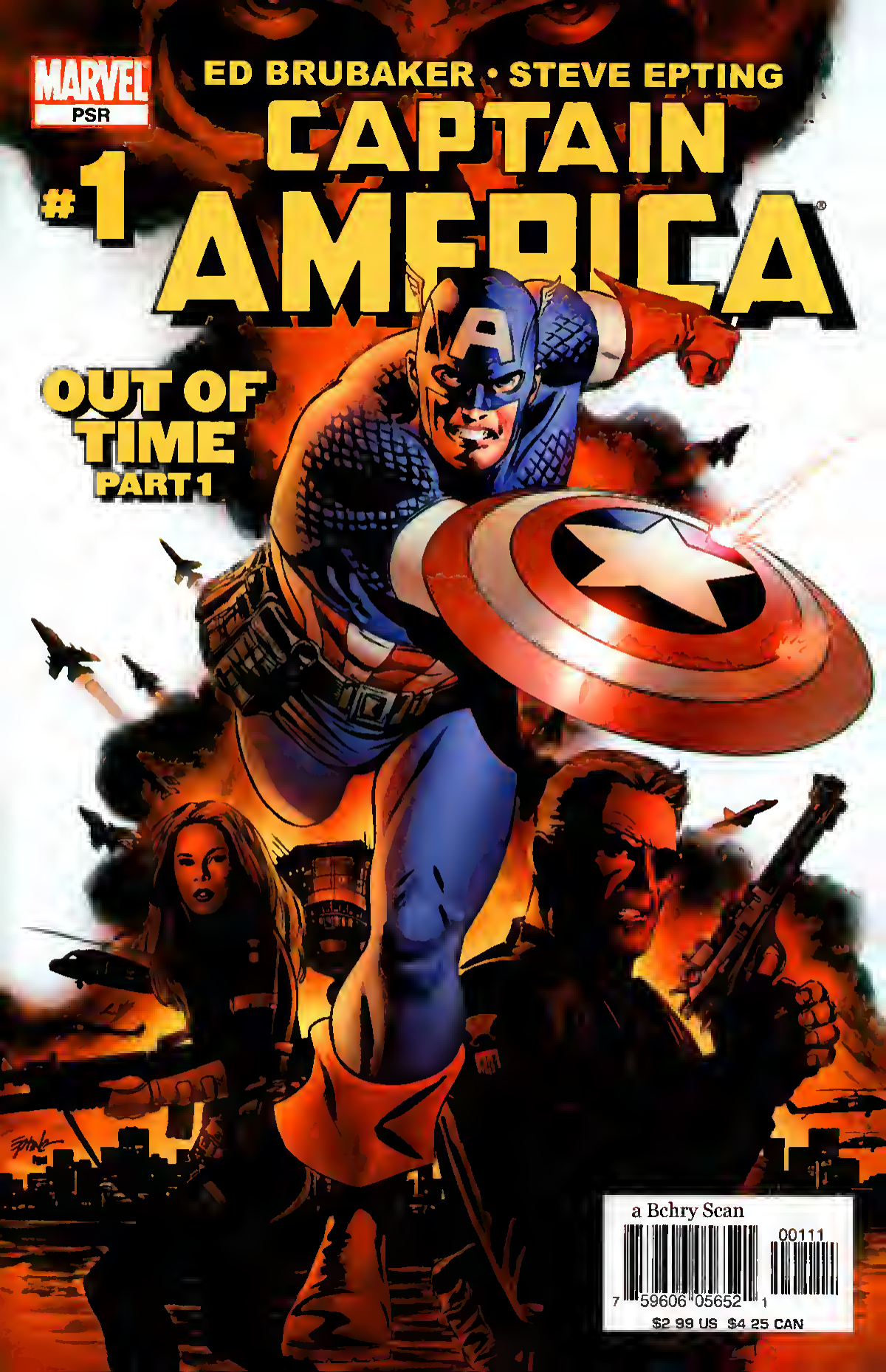

I'M SURE. SEE YOU LATER
MRS. RENNIE?
ARE YOU OUT IN YOUR CAR AGAIN, MR. STARK?
YES. HAVE THE NEW JET AT JFK READY TO GO. AND GIVE THE ORDER TO SEAL MY PRIVATE HANGAR THERE.
I WANT TO DROP THE CAR OFF.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO PUT THE CAR IN THAT RIDICULOUS CRATE AND WANT IT TRANSPORTED BACK TO YOUR FILTHY GARAGE.
WITHOUT ANYONE LOOKING INSIDE, AS USUAL.
I'M VERY PROTECTIVE ABOUT MY CAR.


November 9
D.R. Cole






I'M ALIVE.


MARVEL
PSR
ED BRUBAKER • STEVE EPTING
CAPTAIN AMERICA
#1
OUT OF TIME
PART 1
a Bchry Scan
00111
7 59606 05652 1
$2 99 US $4 25 CAN


Five Years Ago–Russia,
Near The Kazakhstan Border


WE CAUGHT THIS ONE TRYING TO BREACH THE PERIMETER FENCE TO THE NORTH, GENERAL LUKIN.
...UHHH... WHAT IS...?


THE NEURAL BLASTERS TOOK HIM DOWN JUST AS EXPECTED.
...UHNN...


FORGIVE THE INTERRUPTION, HERR SKULL...THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT. AND THEN WE CAN GET TO OUR BUSINESS.
DON'T APOLOGIZE, GENERAL...I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO WAIT WHEN ENTERTAINMENT IS PROVIDED.


KEEP YOUR SATISFACTION TO YOURSELF, SADIST.
WHAT I DO HERE, I TAKE NO JOY IN.


<SO EVEN AFTER THE FALL THE RED ROOM *STILL* PRODUCES MEN SUCH AS YOURSELF? I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT TIME WAS LONG PASSED >
<DID THEY TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PREDECESSORS, *RED GUARDIAN*?>
<...GENERAL ALEKSANDER LUKIN UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT YELTSIN...>
<...YOU ARE HEREBY ...UNDER *ARREST*...FOR ABANDONING YOUR POST ..FOR THEFT OF GOVERNMENT.. SECRETS... AND WEAPONS. ..>
<...AND FOR CRIMES OF *TREASON* AGAINST MOTHER RUSSIA...>
<MOTHER RUSSIA?>
<I'M *SORRY* TO TELL YOU THAT I AM ALL THAT IS *LEFT* OF THE TRUE MOTHER RUSSIA BOY...>
BLAM


TREAT HIS REMAINS AS IF HE WERE ONE OF OUR OWN.
WHEN WE'RE FINISHED HERE, I'LL LET THEM KNOW WHERE THEY CAN RETRIEVE HIS BODY.


NOW, HERR SKULL... I ASSUME YOU STILL WANT TO EXAMINE THE ITEMS I HAVE FOR SALE?




WHAT IS THIS EXACTLY?
ACCORDING TO THE SCHEMATICS, IT OPENS SMALL WINDOWS INTO SOMETHING CALLED EH...THE NEGATIVE ZONE?
THIS IS ALL EXPERIMENTAL WORK? OR HAS IT BEEN FIELD-TESTED?


SOME HAS. WHAT IS HERE WILL WORK. I GUARANTEE YOU THAT, SKULL.
THIS IS THE LAST OF COMRADE KARPOV'S FACILITIES, AND WHERE HE KEPT HIS MOST VALUABLE TREASURES.


KARPOV...HOW WOULD YOUR OLD MENTOR FEEL ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH HIS INHERITANCE?
SELLING KGB-DEVELOPED WEAPONRY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER?


WHY DO YOU THINK HE LEFT THIS IN MY HANDS AND NOT HIS SUPERIORS'?
HE KNEW IF THE SOVIET UNION WERE TO COLLAPSE, THERE MUST STILL BE MEN WILLING TO DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE CAUSE.
AND I AM NOT SELLING EVERYTHING YOU SEE HERE. MOST OF IT IS LEAVING THIS SAD COUNTRY ALONG WITH MYSELF AND MY MEN.
I SEE. THEN I--
--MEIN GOTT!
THIS CAN'T BE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE?!
AH, YES. I'VE BEEN GOING OVER THE PAPERWORK COMRADE KARPOV LEFT ON THIS ONE.
HE WAS APPARENTLY VERY USEFUL IN THE COLD WAR. A SECRET WEAPON, OF A SORT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES
HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR IT?
I THINK NOT, HERR SKULL. I HAVE MY OWN PLANS FOR THAT ITEM. UNLESS OF COURSE, YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO EXCHANGE IT FOR THE COSMIC CUBE, AS IT IS KNOWN?


THE CUBE? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
HE KNOW OF MANY THINGS YOU HOLD CLOSE.
AND I WOULD VALUE THIS COSMIC CUBE QUITE HIGHLY IF IT IS WHAT I HAVE HEARD.
OH, IT IS, BELIEVE ME. BUT IT'S NOT IN MY POSSESSION.
EVEN IF IT WAS, YOU CAN'T THINK YOU'D HAVE ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE ME GIVE IT UP.
THOUGH I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D DESIRE IT...YOU'D HAVE THE POWER TO REBUILD YOUR SOCIALIST REPUBLIC WOULDN'T YOU?
THAT IS ONE POSSIBILITY, AMONG MANY.
WELL, YOU CAN KEEP DREAMING... MY SPIES ARE COMBING THE WORLD FOR SIGNS OF IT EVEN AS WE SPEAK.
THE CUBE WILL BE MINE, AND NO ONE ELSE'S.
AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, THIS WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW FEAR, GENERAL... LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.

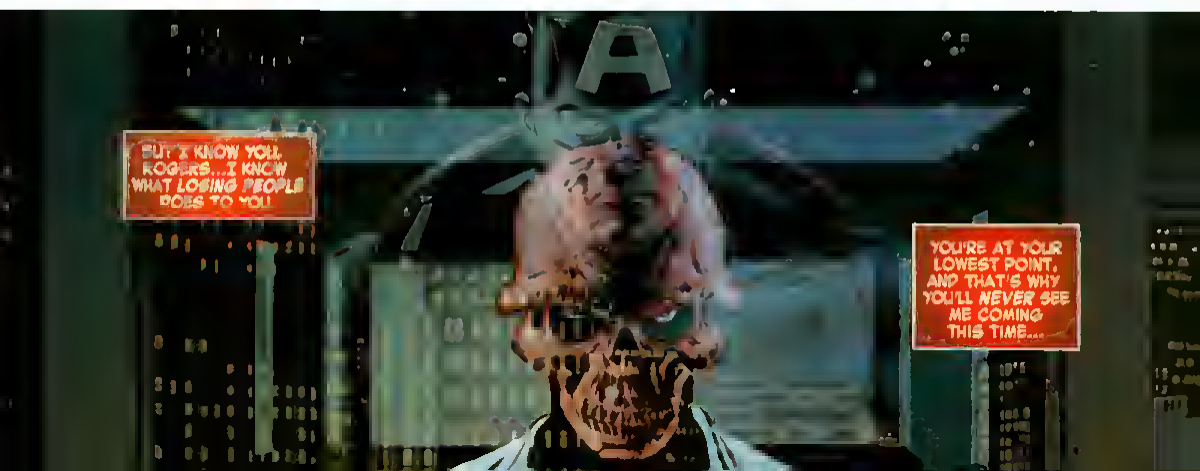

THE PRESENT DAY—
NEW YORK CITY
THE CUBE IS MINE AGAIN, AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF SEARCHING AND WAITING...
...AND THIS TIME IT WON'T GO TO WASTE.
BECAUSE THIS TIME MY PLANS ARE LAID OUT PERFECTLY.
JUST A FEW HOURS MORE TO GO UNTIL MIDNIGHT, AND THEN PARIS, LONDON, AND, OF COURSE, MANHATTAN...WILL ALL BURN FOR ME.


AND WE WILL HARVEST THIS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION...
AND TRANSMUTE IT INTO ENERGY...
...TO FILL THIS IMPERFECT COSMIC CUBE, MELDED TOGETHER FROM SHARDS OF THE ONES THAT WERE TAKEN FROM ME...
...OR EVEN SHATTERED IN MY OWN HANDS BY HIM.
STEVE ROGERS... CAPTAIN AMERICA.
THIS NIGHT IS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, ROGERS. WHICH IS WHY I'VE GOT A RINGSIDE SEAT TO WATCH THIS CITY YOU LOVE DIE...
BUT THEN, I'VE HAD MONTHS TO PREPARE, LYING IN A CELL AND STARING AT BLANK WALLS...


...WHILE MY SPIES KEPT YOU UNDER WATCH.


THEY'VE SEEN YOUR TRAGEDIES... EVERYTHING YOU'VE LOST.
DAILY BUGLE
AVENGERS DISBAND
HAWKEYE DEAD

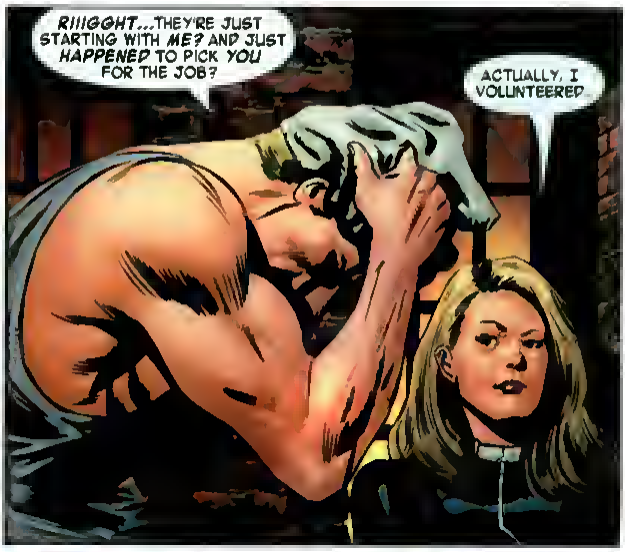

AND THEY'VE KEPT YOU DISTRACTED, TOO. WHILE YOU TRY TO KEEP YOUR GAME FACE ON.
TRY TO ACT LIKE EVERYTHING IS JUST THE SAME AS IT WAS BEFORE.


BUT I KNOW YOU, ROGERS...I KNOW WHAT LOSING PEOPLE DOES TO YOU!
YOU'RE AT YOUR LOWEST POINT, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME COMING THIS TIME...


"HOW ARE YOU, STEVE. REALLY?"
HAMLET
"I'M SORRY, WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?"


I SAID, HOW ARE YOU?
I'M FINE... WHY?
BECAUSE YOU DON'T SEEM FINE.
AND HOW DO I SEEM...
...AGENT THIRTEEN?
ANGRY. LOOK, STEVE. CAN YOU JUST STOP THAT?
I'M GETTING DIZZY JUST LOOKING AT YOU.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT FOR A SECOND. YOU WOULDN'T GET DIZZY STANDING ON A MOVING HELICOPTER BLADE.
BUT ONLY YOU WOULD ACTUALLY TRY TO DO THAT.
I'M SORRY, SHARON. BUT I'M STILL TRYING TO WRAP MY HEAD AROUND WHY MY EX-GIRLFRIEND IS HERE.
WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY ANNUAL EVALUATION?


NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.. LOOK, IT'S NOT JUST YOU.
S.H.I.E.L.D WANTS PERSONAL LIAISONS FOR ALL GOVERNMENT-FUNDED OPERATIVES


RIIIGHT...THEY'RE JUST STARTING WITH ME? AND JUST HAPPENED TO PICK YOU FOR THE JOB?
ACTUALLY, I VOLUNTEERED


WHY?
MAYBE 'CAUSE I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED SOMEONE WHO'D TREAT YOU LIKE A PERSON, NOT A LIVING LEGEND. WHO WOULDN'T PEE THEIR PANTS JUST TO MEET YOU

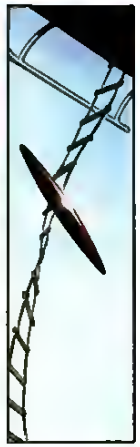

AND MAYBE I THOUGHT YOU'D OPEN UP TO ME MORE THAN YOU DID TO THAT THERAPIST IN YOUR ANNUAL EVALUATION, WHICH I READ BY THE WAY
AND YOU'RE LUCKY THAT GUY DIDN'T KNOW YOU AS WELL AS I USED TO . .OR YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE LEVELS RIGHT NOW.


WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT MEANS THAT S.H.I.E.L.D MAY NOT BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU YET, STEVE BUT I AM.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME? YOU ARE SHARON CARTER RIGHT? NOT A LIFE MODEL DECOY?


STOP IT...I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE
YOUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN A LITTLE EXTREME LATELY


"... TAKE THE INCIDENT LAST WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE..."


"LAST WEEK?

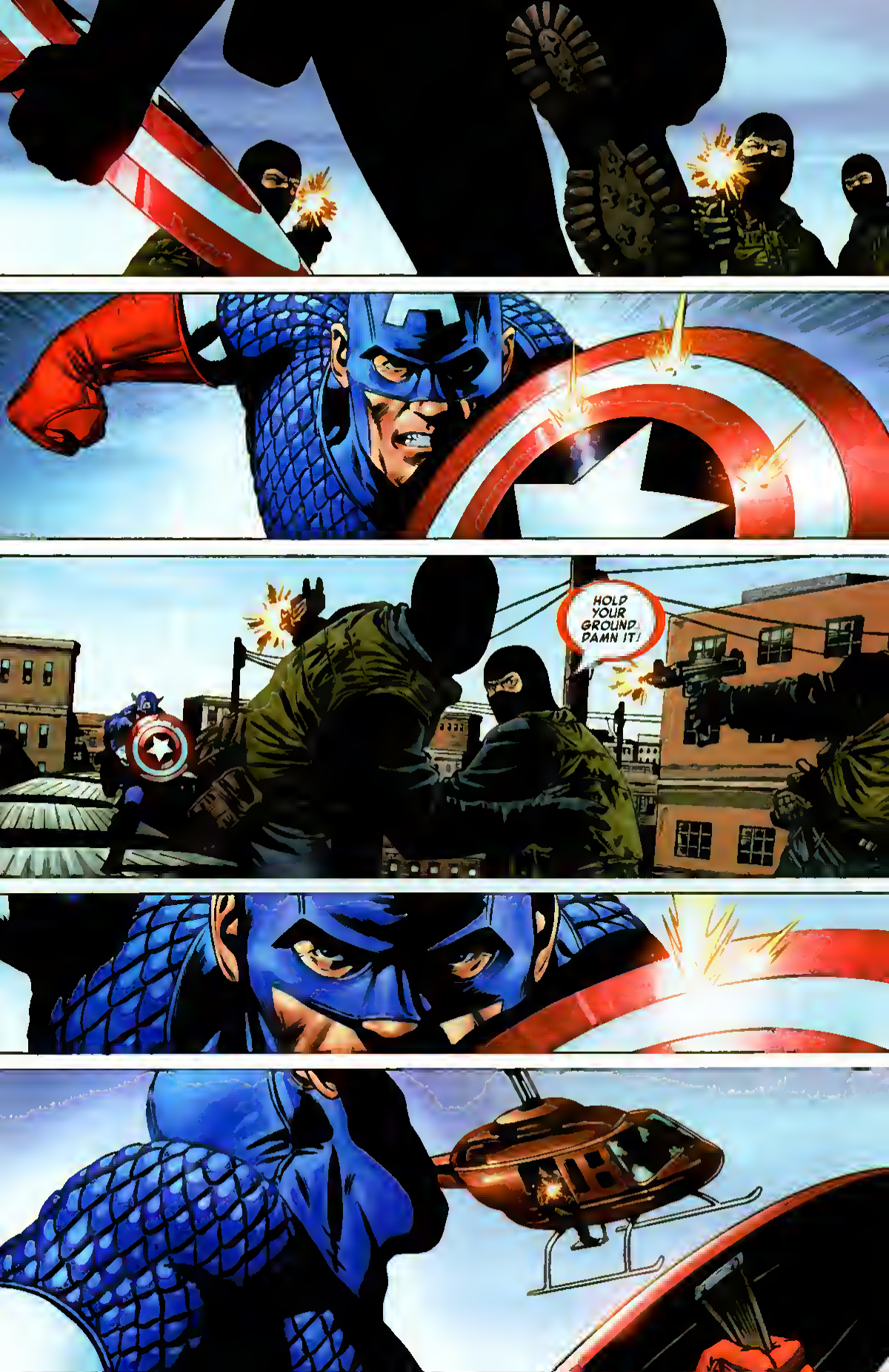




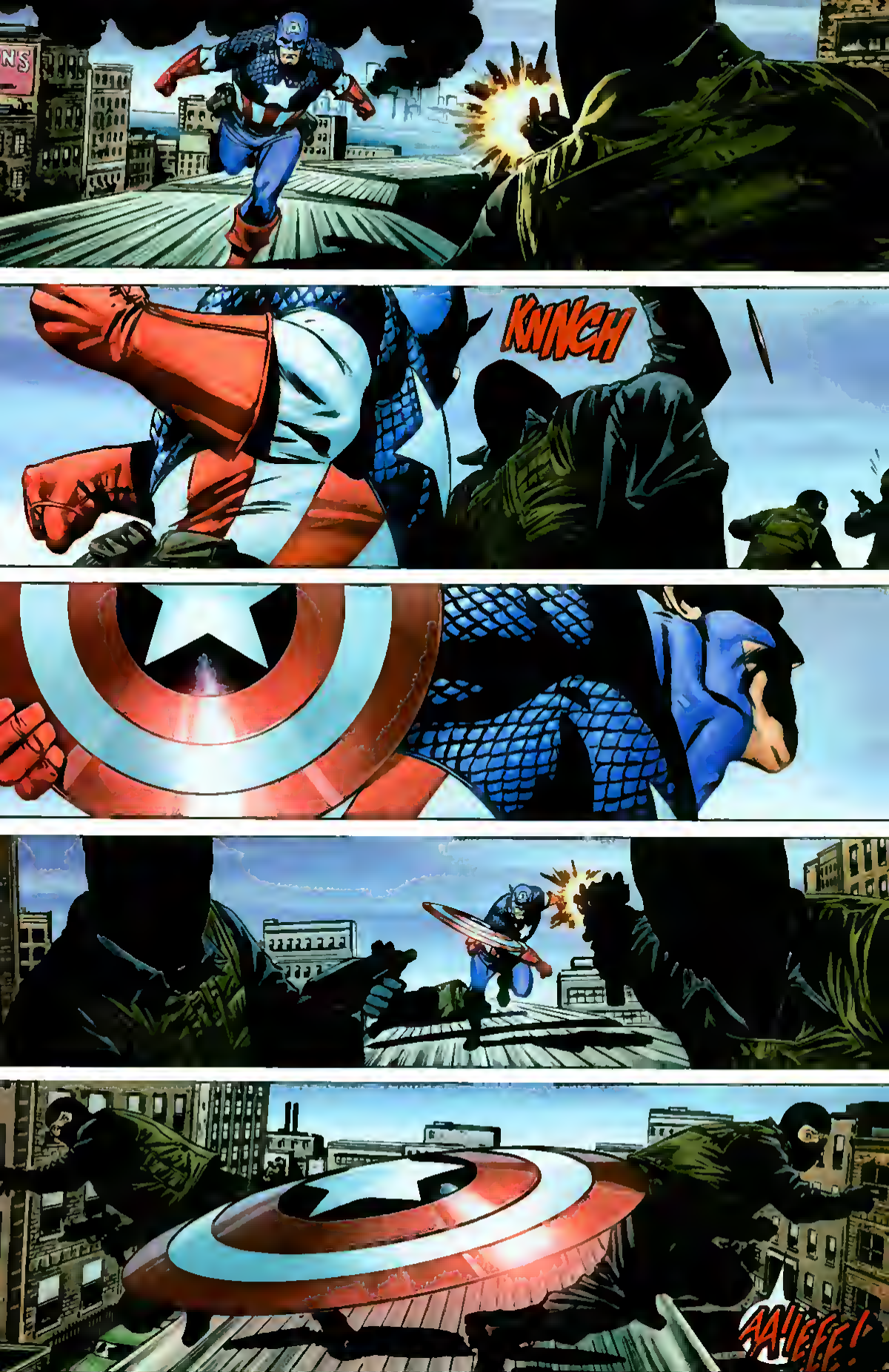

"THOSE MEN WERE TERRORISTS




"THEY KILLED THE DRIVER ON THE B TRAIN AND HAD HIS BOOTH PACKED WITH C-4 AND CHEMICAL WASTE.
"THEY WERE GOING TO SET OFF A DIRTY BOMB AT THE END OF THE LINE AND TURN CONEY ISLAND INTO A WASTELAND."
AHHH!
GET HIM!


HOLD YOUR GROUND, DAMN IT!



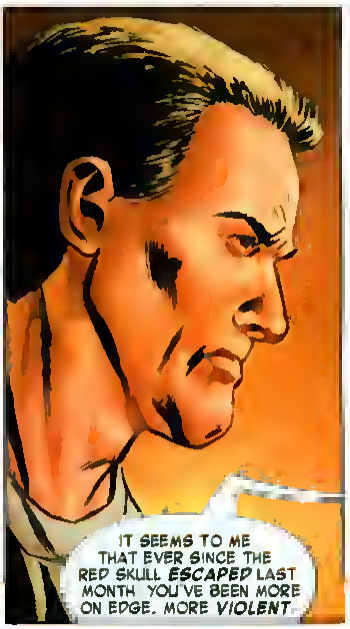

KNNCH
AAIEEE!


NOT YET, YOU DON'T.
OHGOD THANKYOU THANKYOU--
DON'T THANK ME. YOU'RE JUST NOT GETTING OFF THAT EASY
AAGHHHH!
LISTEN TO ME, SCUM. YOU'RE GOING TO DEFUSE THAT BOMB DOWN THERE. RIGHT NOW...
OR WE'RE BOTH GOING TO RIDE IT INTO THE SUNSET
I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN I'D SURVIVE... HOW ABOUT YOU?


--RECKLESS. TAKING RISKS LIKE THAT WE GOT INCREDIBLY LUCKY THAT COPTER WENT DOWN IN THE RIVER
IT WASN'T LUCK, AND IT WASN'T RECKLESS I GOT THE JOB DONE
YES, AND YOU BROKE FOUR BONES IN ONE SUSPECT'S FACE PUTTING HIM INTO A COMA WHILE TWO OTHERS DIED FALLING FROM THAT TRAIN...
...ONE OF WHOM LANDED ON A MINIVAN AND CAUSED FOUR OTHER SERIOUS INJURIES
YOU'RE RIGHT, SHARON I SHOULD'VE JUST LET THEM BLOW UP THE TRAIN. THAT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER


THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AND YOU KNOW IT


LOOK, STEVE, I KNOW IT'S DIFFERENT NOW I KNOW IT'S A NEW WORLD. I'M ON THE FRONT LINES IN IT JUST LIKE YOU ARE.
B--T THE MAN I KNEW DIDN'T HIT THAT HARD UNLESS HE HAD TO
ARMY

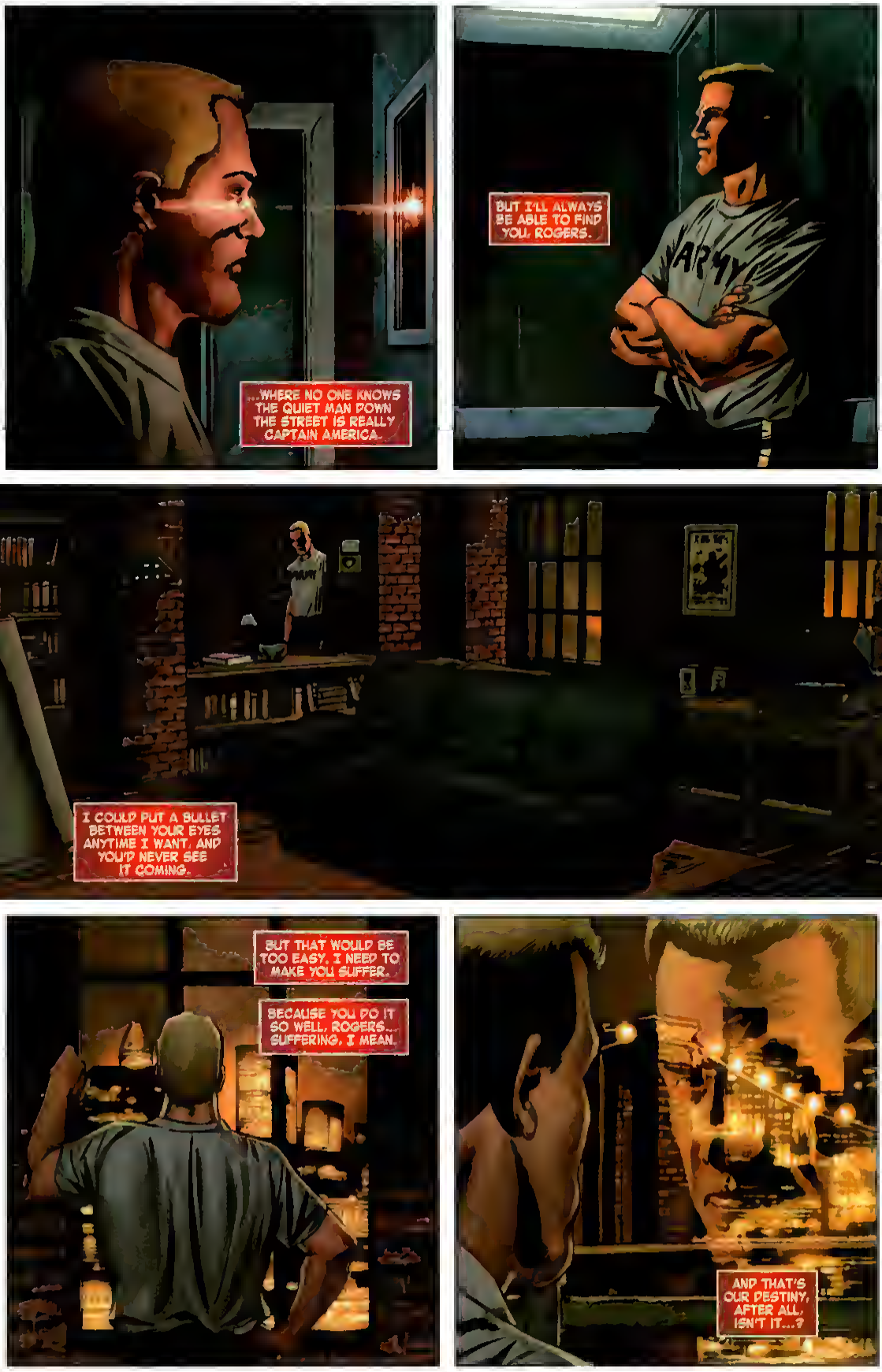

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT EVER SINCE THE RED SKULL ESCAPED LAST MONTH YOU'VE BEEN MORE ON EDGE. MORE VIOLENT


YOU KNOW WHAT I SEE WHEN I DREAM, SHARON?
I SEE THE WAR. MY WAR.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME I STILL DREAM ABOUT FOXHOLES IN THE BLACK FOREST.
I STILL HEAR THE SCREAMS OF TERRIFIED SOLDIERS. SMELL THEIR BLOOD AND TEARS.
I STILL DREAM ABOUT BUCKY. HIM AND ALL THE OTHERS I COULDN'T SAVE.


IT HARDLY SEEMS FAIR. AFTER SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED IN THE WORLD. THAT IN MY DREAMS IT'S STILL 1944
STEVE...
IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING
I REALLY AM FINE SHARON...IT'S JUST BEEN A ROUGH COUPLE OF MONTHS.
I KNOW...
HEY LISTEN, DID YOU *REALLY* TELL NICK FURY YOU WANTED TO JOIN THE *SPACE PROGRAM?*
HA...NO. NOT EXACTLY.
I TOLD HIM I FEEL *GUILTY* WHEN I THINK OF ALL THOSE MEN WHO DIED TRYING TO REACH THE STARS.. THAT IT SHOULD'VE BEEN *ME* TAKING THOSE RISKS
THAT'S WHAT I WAS *BUILT FOR*, AFTER ALL.
BOY TALK ABOUT CARRYING THE WEIGHT OF THE *WORLD*- YOU TRULY ARE ONE OF A KIND STEVE ROGERS.


CHECK IN WITH YOU IN A WEEK OR TWO AND YOU KNOW HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME OTHERWISE RIGHT?
OF COURSE.
OH, AND FURY WANTS TO KNOW HOW YOU LIKE YOUR NEW PLACE.
IT'S PERFECT
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'S PRIVATE. I LIKE NEIGHBORS, BUT I CAN'T BE PUTTING INNOCENT PEOPLE AT RISK.
SO, NO PROBLEMS WITH THE HOLO-WALL?
NOT SO FAR.
LISTEN, SHARON— ABOUT THAT CONEY ISLAND THING. HAS S.H.I.E.L.D. FIGURED OUT WHO THOSE MEN WERE YET?
YES, AND THAT'S THE STRANGE PART.
THEY'RE PART OF A BRANCH OF A.I.M. THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEFUNCT, AND WE STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEIR MOTIVE WAS.
THE ONE WHO CAN STILL TALK DOESN'T KNOW, SAYS THE RINGLEADER'S THE GUY YOU PUT INTO THE COMA.
AND STILL NO WORD ON THE SKULL?
NOT A PEEP. BUT HE'S GOT TO SURFACE SOMETIME, AND WHEN HE DOES, WE'LL GET HIM.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE OPTIMISTIC ONE.


SAFE TRIP.
SURE. I'LL JUST REMEMBER TO STAY AWAY FROM ELEVATED TRAIN TRACKS.
YOU'RE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, SKULL...AND WHEN I FIND YOU...
DANGER
HIGH VOLTAGE
YOU THINK YOU'RE SAFE IN YOUR NEW SECRET HOME. IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR BROOKLYN BRIDGE?


...WHERE NO ONE KNOWS THE QUIET MAN DOWN THE STREET IS REALLY CAPTAIN AMERICA.
BUT I'LL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO FIND YOU, ROGERS.
ARMY
I COULD PUT A BULLET BETWEEN YOUR EYES ANYTIME I WANT, AND YOU'D NEVER SEE IT COMING.
BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY. I NEED TO MAKE YOU SUFFER.
BECAUSE YOU DO IT SO WELL, ROGERS... SUFFERING, I MEAN.
AND THAT'S OUR DESTINY, AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT...?


...THE TWO OF US, LOCKED IN ETERNAL COMBAT DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS...KEEPING EACH OTHER MISERABLE.
WHAT WOULD WE EVEN BE WITHOUT THE OTHER? I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME WE FOUND OUT.
BUT BEFORE YOU DIE, I PROMISE YOU, YOU WILL KNOW SUFFERING ON A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.
AND WHEN I STRIP YOUR LIFE OF ALL MEANING, YOU'LL--
DECDECDECD-DECDECDECP
AH, GENERAL LUKIN. HOW AMUSING THAT YOU SHOULD CALL AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
YES, I'M AFRAID YOUR SOURCES WERE *CORRECT*...
...I'M HOLDING IT AS WE SPEAK... THOUGH IT HAS BARELY THE *POWER* TO KEEP ITSELF *TOGETHER* RIGHT NOW.
BUT SOON THAT WILL BE *PUT RIGHT*.
NO...DON'T BE A *FOOL*. I TOLD YOU ONCE THERE WAS *NOTHING* YOU HAD TO OFFER ME THAT--
YOU'RE A *POWERFUL MAN*? I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT GENERAL!!


BUT THE TIME OF YOUR POWER MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS COMING TO ITS END
WHAT? YOU'RE SORRY I FEEL THAT WAY?
IS THAT A THREAT, GENERAL? MAYBE YOU'RE MORE OF A FOOL THAN—
KSSH
...WAS IS—?
CHUNK
CHUNK
TK'K


MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, GENERAL ..THE CUBE IS YOURS.
THE RED SKULL? NO, NO TROUBLE AT ALL, SIR.



OUT OF TIME
PART ONE

ED BRUBAKER
WRITER

STEVE EPTING
ARTIST

FRANK D'ARMATA
COLORIST

VC'S RANDY GENTILE
LETTERER

SCHMIDT, WILEY & LAZER
ASSISTANT EDITORS

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

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ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND, BUT HIS OTHER FOUR SENSES FUNCTION WITH SUPERHUMAN SHARPNESS AND A RADAR SENSE. WITH AMAZING FIGHTING SKILLS HE STALKS THE STREETS AT NIGHT, A RELENTLESS AVENGER OF JUSTICE: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
STORY
ALEX MALEEV
ART

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
CORY PETIT
LETTERS

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR
KELLY LAMY
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

Previously in Daredevil...

One of the biggest tabloid newspapers in the city outed Matt Murdock: Daredevil's secret identity revealed.

The secret is out.

Matt Murdock is now faced with a continuing uphill battle of publicly denying his secret life as Daredevil because simply admitting it would get him disbarred and jailed.

But Matt's public struggle makes his alter ego more popular with the people than ever before.

Daredevil rescues a blind girl named Milla Donovan from almost being hit by a truck. Milla approaches him as Matt because of an attraction she feels and they start to see each other.

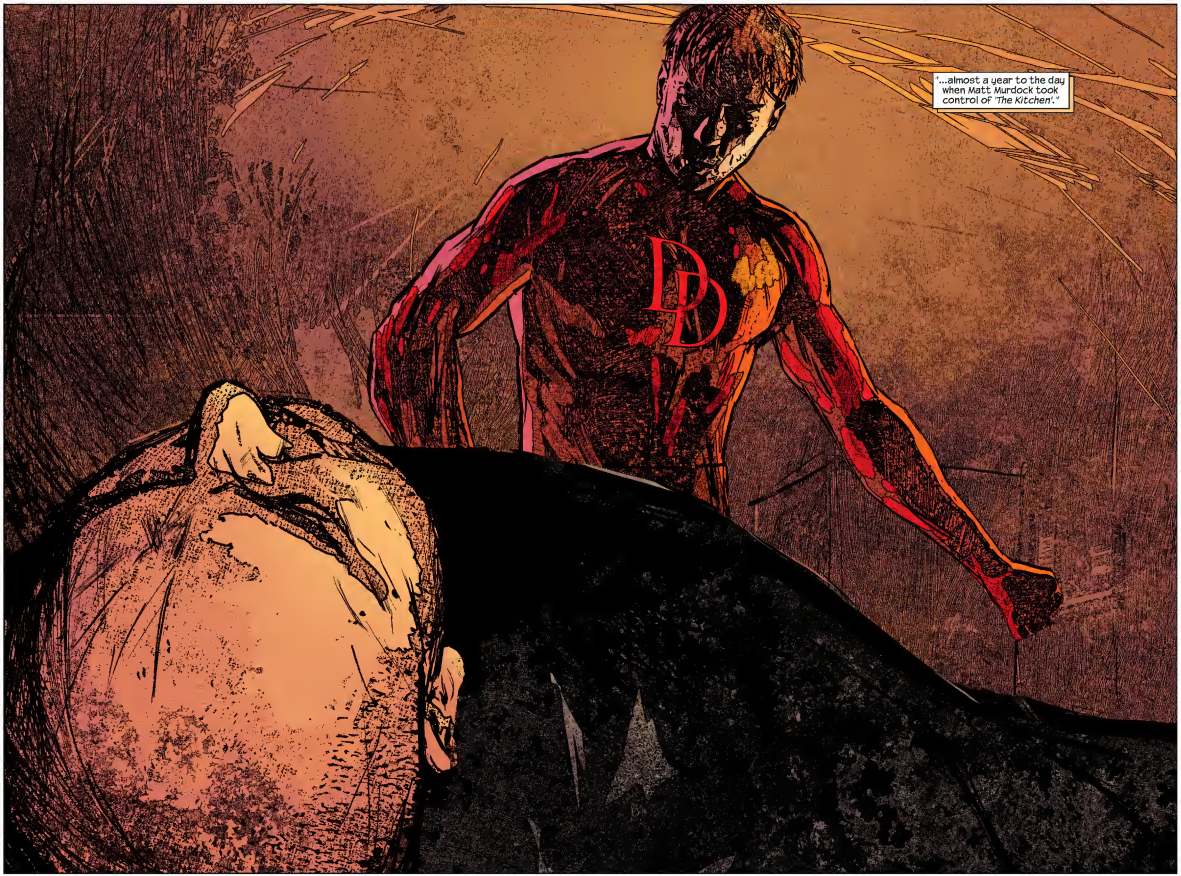
Then Daredevil does the unthinkable.

Faced with the growing frustration that his fight with the Kingpin would never end, Daredevil beat him publicly and then removed his own mask... announcing to the underworld of the city that he was now the Kingpin and that his new rule was clean up or get out.

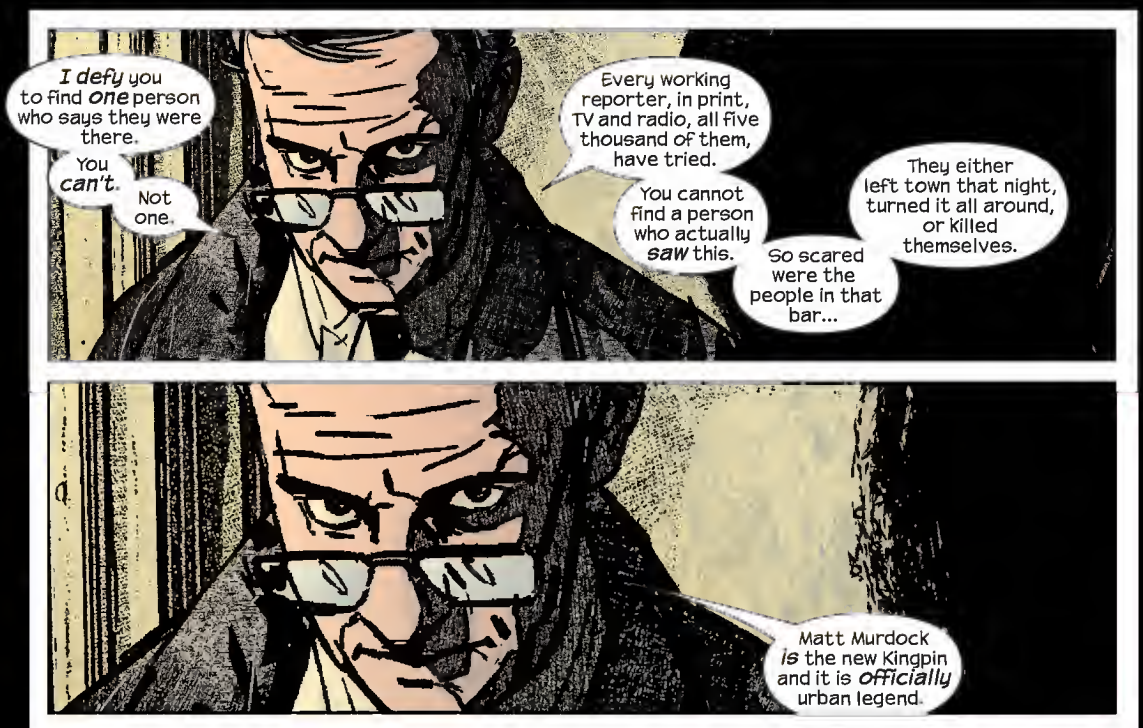
The King of Hell's Kitchen: Part 1

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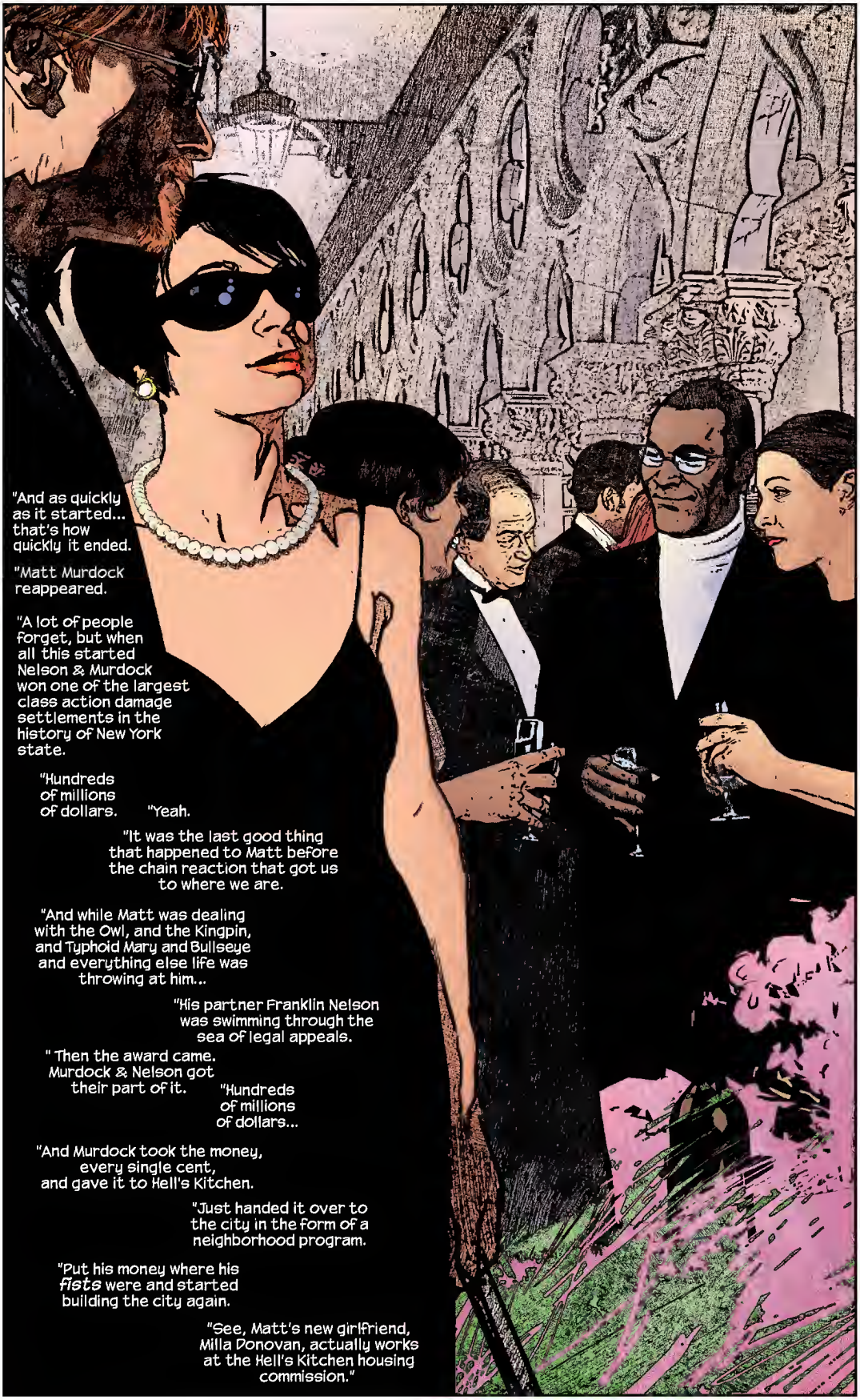

Hi.
Sorry, I'm late.
I'm Ben Urich, investigative reporter for the Daily Bugle.
Ugh, I'm sorry.
I hate that I introduce myself like that without thinking.
Somehow, in my head, my last name officially became: "Investigative reporter for the Daily Bugle."
Hmm, it's weird... I feel nervous.
Guess I'm a little nervous talking to you.
Can you tell?
I don't know you that well.
Yeah, I guess that's true.
Anyway, it's been a hell of a week.
(Hell of a week...)
Hell of a year!!
Hell of a year is what it's been...


"...almost a year to the day when Matt Murdock took control of 'The Kitchen'."


Here's something to wrap your head around...
What would our world look like had Prohibition never happened?
See?
I mean, the First World War just ended...
And everyone who lived through it, who made it out alive, desperately needs a *drink*.
And they go and make a law that says no drinking.
Seventy million dollars a year, in 1921 money, *handed* to *thugs* for no reason.
Bugsy Siegal, 'Lucky' Luciano, Myer Lansky...
And ever *since* then this city's entire economy has relied on... Kingpins.
This is the secret history of New York City.
It's what no one talks about.
We *need* them.
Arnold Rothstein. Mr. Big. Murder Inc. Wilson Fisk. Gotti.
There was always *crime*. Always...
Human nature.
But *we* created Kingpins.
Know how Lansky got rich? Lansky invented 'Poorman's gambling.'
A lottery played with nickels and dimes. Why? Because that's all anyone could afford were nickels and dimes.
He knew this. Guy made millions... on nickels and dimes.
Nickels and dimes, then cheap whiskey, then it's pot, then it's crack. X.
Then before you know it, fast forward, and Wilson Fisk muscled all of it into one territory based right out of the oldest battleground in the country.
The Kitchen.
Until Matt Murdock took it from him.
Can you imagine that this happened in our lifetime?
This is a *historic* event.
A major super hero-- an *A-list* super hero-- in *this* city-- pulls off his mask and declares the city his.
This is as big a story as this city will *ever* see.
But *find* someone who saw it.


I defy you to find one person who says they were there.
You can't.
Not one.
Every working reporter, in print, TV and radio, all five thousand of them, have tried.
You cannot find a person who actually saw this.
So scared were the people in that bar...
They either left town that night, turned it all around, or killed themselves.
Matt Murdock is the new Kingpin and it is officially urban legend.


"What *isn't* urban legend is the six weeks that followed.
"Six straight weeks of terror and violence against the underworld that the city has never seen before or since.
"This wasn't some super hero bounce-around...
"See, like I said, *most* of the garbage ran out of the Kitchen that night, that week. Some cleaned up.
"But there's always those damn idiots who think they're indestructible... or that the rules don't apply to *them*.
"Or they're just too drunk or stoned to figure out it's over.
"So, all night, every night...
"For weeks...
"A streak of unparalleled violence struck the shadows of the city.
"They say Matt Murdock disappeared for this.
"It was just Daredevil.
"He was everywhere. Fists flying, blood spattered.
"He cleaned every corner, every nook and cranny."

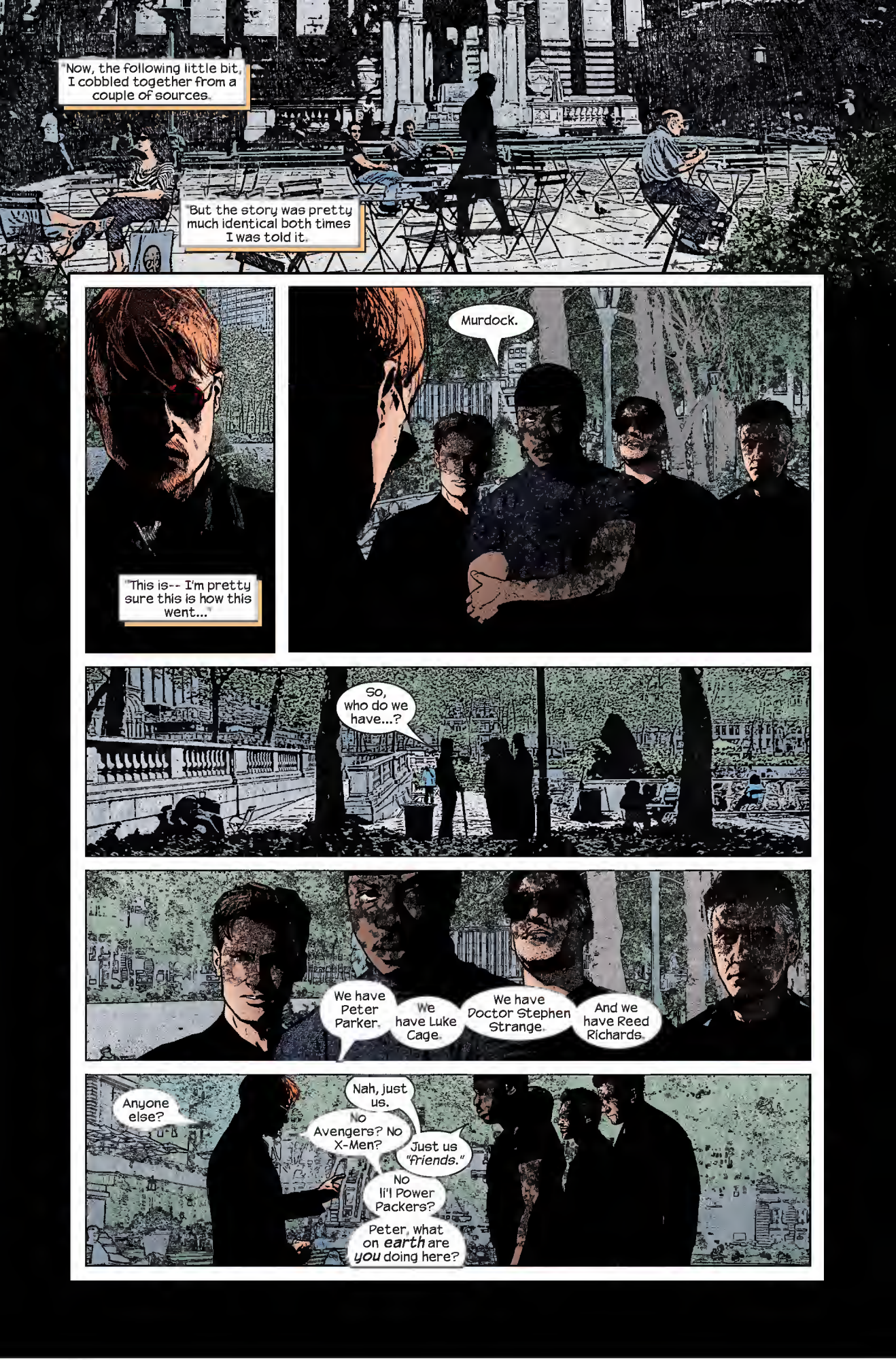

"And as quickly as it started... that's how quickly it ended.
"Matt Murdock reappeared.
"A lot of people forget, but when all this started Nelson & Murdock won one of the largest class action damage settlements in the history of New York state.
"Hundreds of millions of dollars.
"Yeah.
"It was the last good thing that happened to Matt before the chain reaction that got us to where we are.
"And while Matt was dealing with the Owl, and the Kingpin, and Typhoid Mary and Bullseye and everything else life was throwing at him...
"His partner Franklin Nelson was swimming through the sea of legal appeals.
" Then the award came. Murdock & Nelson got their part of it.
"Hundreds of millions of dollars...
"And Murdock took the money, every single cent, and gave it to Hell's Kitchen.
"Just handed it over to the city in the form of a neighborhood program.
"Put his money where his *fists* were and started building the city again.
"See, Matt's new girlfriend, Milla Donovan, actually works at the Hell's Kitchen housing commission."


"She knew exactly where the money should go...
"And who needed it most...
"And which buildings could be saved.
"And the rest of it went into a new library.
"The Mayor jumped in on it. Matching funds and urging businesses to return.
"And with crime down and people in better living conditions...
"People could walk down the street.
"People could look each other in the eye."
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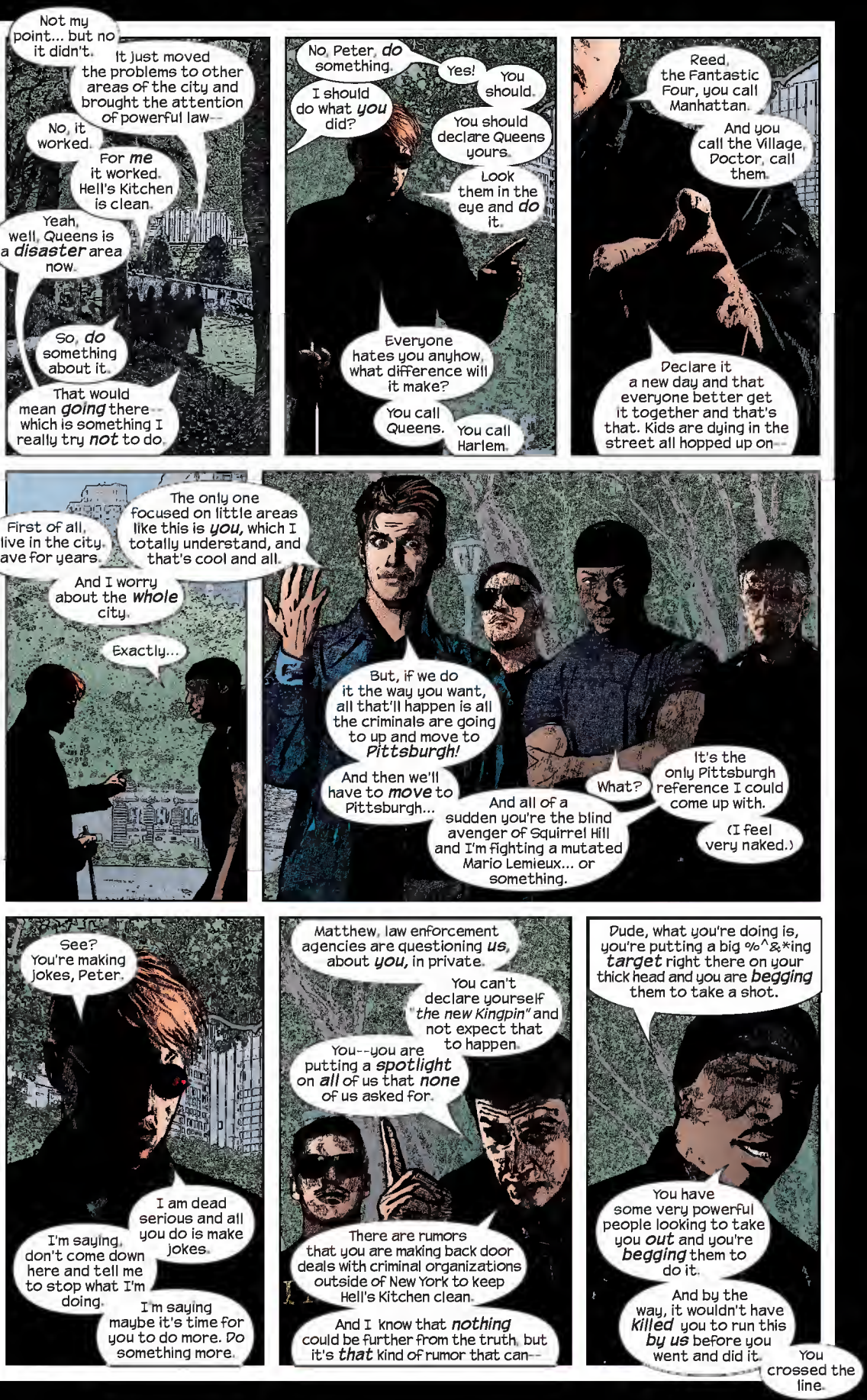

"And *that's* how he saved the city."

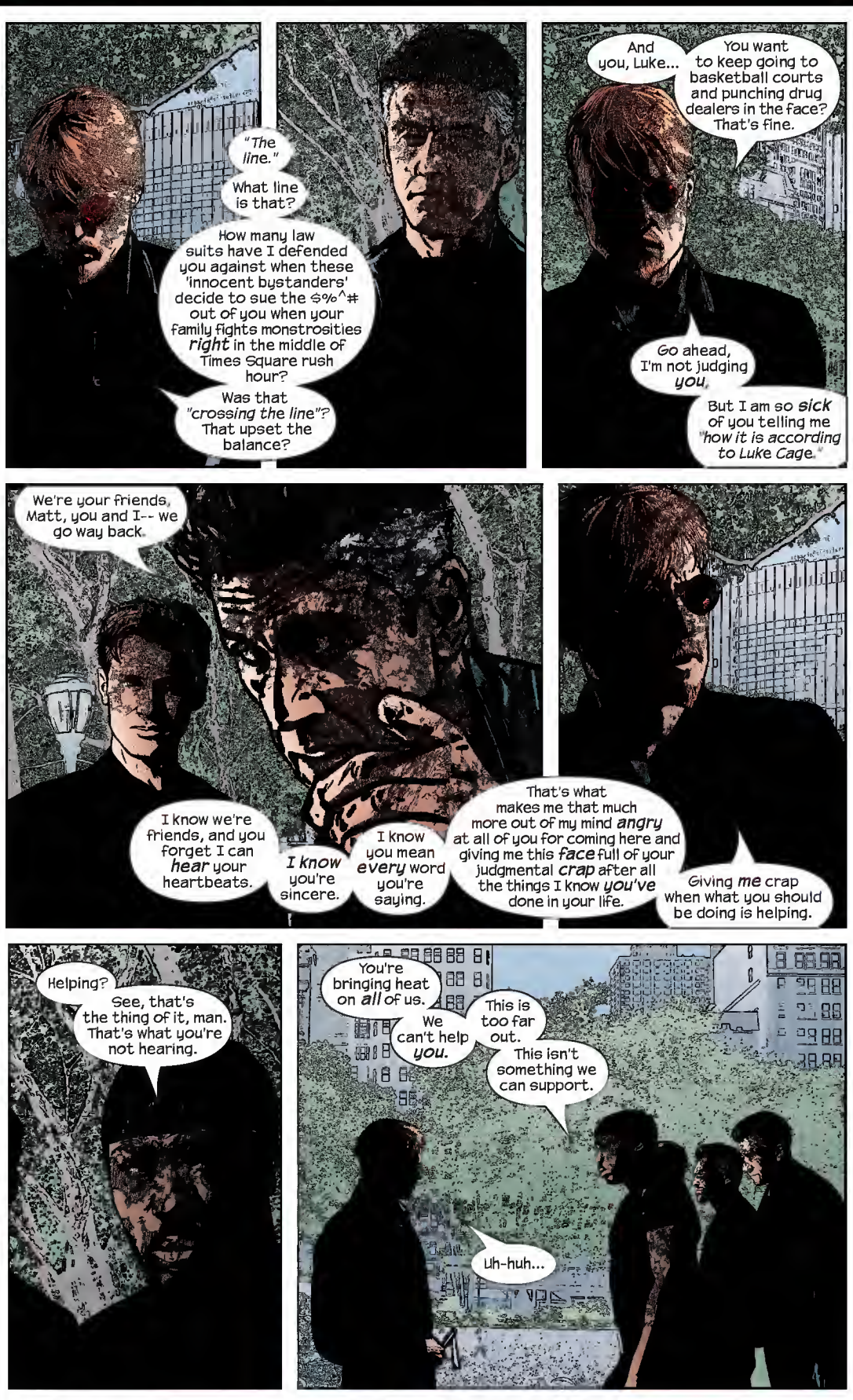

What happened next, from the way it was told to me, was one of those 'Only in New York' kind of things.
(Well, it could happen in California.)
I'm sorry?
They're going to ask you to be the Democratic nominee for Mayor of New York City.
Huh.
You are aware that I am considered a rather controversial figure.
Matthew, you are an immensely popular civic leader and a champion of justice.
I am seen in some circles as rather notorious.
To find the polite word.

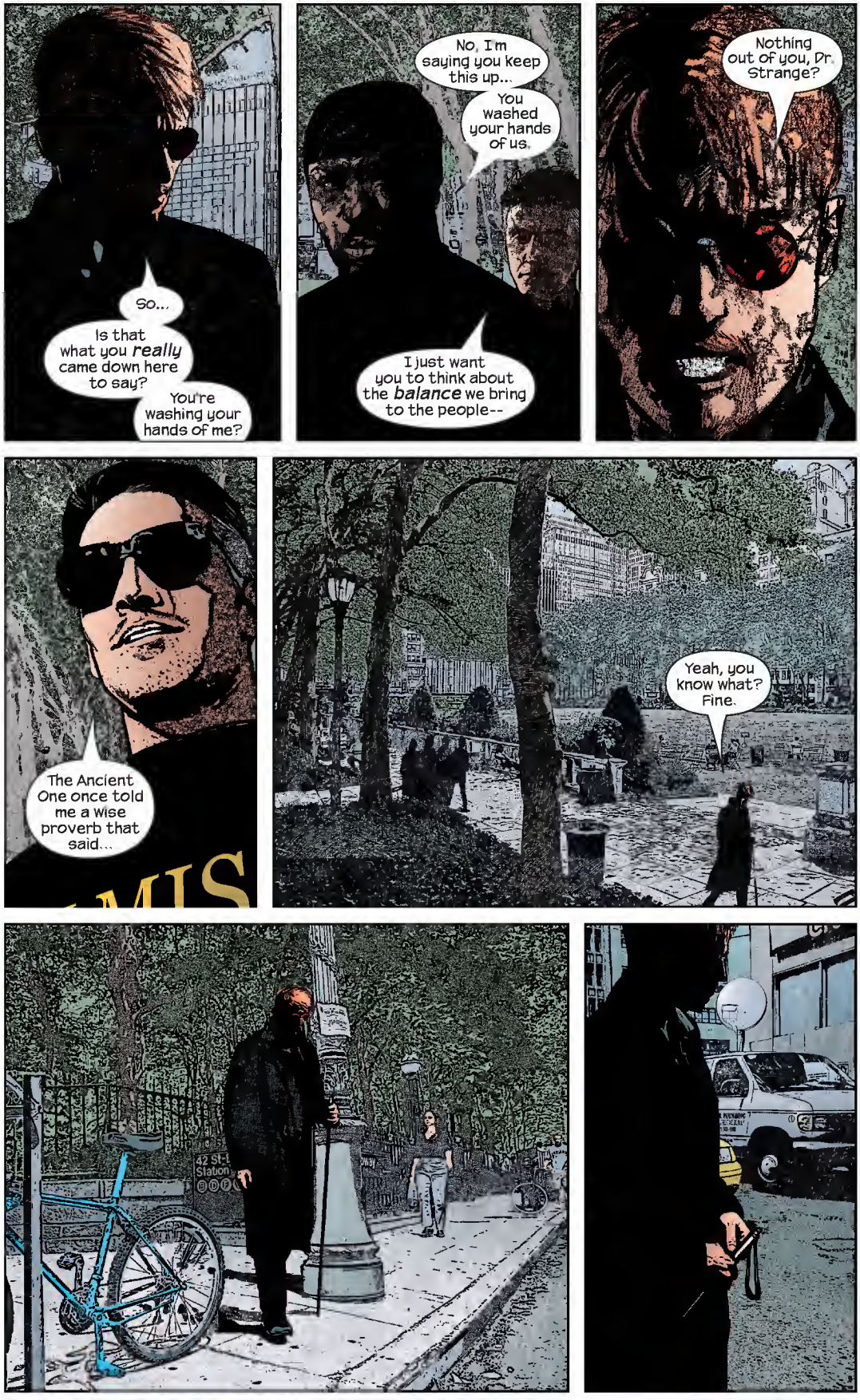

You are a left field choice.
But to be blunt-- we polled it. You'd win.
You'd win big.
And our party needs a win.
The people love you. They trust you.
They feel you understand them and they feel they understand you.
I know this is-- well...
I just wanted you to know that tomorrow at dinner they are going to officially ask you to run.
And I figured you'd appreciate the preview.
I do.
Anyway. You look well, Matt.
Healthiest I have ever seen you.
Franklin. Keep him out of trouble.
Yeah, right.
What do you make of that?
I am dizzy from you.
Mr. Murdock. There's a Luke Cage on line seven.
Well, that can't be good.


"Now, the following little bit, I cobbled together from a couple of sources.
"But the story was pretty much identical both times I was told it.
"This is-- I'm pretty sure this is how this went..."
Murdock.
So, who do we have...?
We have Peter Parker.
We have Luke Cage.
We have Doctor Stephen Strange.
And we have Reed Richards.
Anyone else?
Nah, just us.
No Avengers? No X-Men?
Just us "friends."
No li'l Power Packers?
Peter, what on earth are you doing here?


Doc Strange here thought because we were friends and all... maybe I should be here.
But, see, now Luke and Dr. Richards know who you *really* are.
You shouldn't be so laid back with your secret identity...
It might come back to bite you and *then* you'll have some hard, life-altering decisions to make.
And *then* all of *your* so-called "friends" can decide you need some kind of "talking to" (or whatever this is) and you'll have to meet us in the park so Luke Cage can-
You gonna hear us out before you fly off the handle...?
You gone too far.
I know.
Do you?
You crossed a line.
You crossed a big, big line.
And we gave you your space, let you try to work it through, but now it's getting--
It worked.


Not my point... but no it didn't.
It just moved the problems to other areas of the city and brought the attention of powerful law--
No, it worked.
For me it worked. Hell's Kitchen is clean.
Yeah, well, Queens is a disaster area now.
So, do something about it.
That would mean going there-- which is something I really try not to do.
No, Peter, do something.
Yes!
You should.
I should do what you did?
You should declare Queens yours.
Look them in the eye and do it.
Everyone hates you anyhow, what difference will it make?
You call Queens.
You call Harlem.
Reed, the Fantastic Four, you call Manhattan.
And you call the Village, Doctor, call them.
Declare it a new day and that everyone better get it together and that's that. Kids are dying in the street all hopped up on--
First of all, I live in the city. Have for years.
The only one focused on little areas like this is you, which I totally understand, and that's cool and all.
And I worry about the whole city.
Exactly...
But, if we do it the way you want, all that'll happen is all the criminals are going to up and move to Pittsburgh!
And then we'll have to move to Pittsburgh...
What?
It's the only Pittsburgh reference I could come up with.
And all of a sudden you're the blind avenger of Squirrel Hill and I'm fighting a mutated Mario Lemieux... or something.
(I feel very naked.)
See? You're making jokes, Peter.
I am dead serious and all you do is make jokes.
I'm saying, don't come down here and tell me to stop what I'm doing.
I'm saying maybe it's time for you to do more. Do something more.
Matthew, law enforcement agencies are questioning us, about you, in private.
You can't declare yourself "the new Kingpin" and not expect that to happen.
You--you are putting a spotlight on all of us that none of us asked for.
There are rumors that you are making back door deals with criminal organizations outside of New York to keep Hell's Kitchen clean.
And I know that nothing could be further from the truth, but it's that kind of rumor that can--
Dude, what you're doing is, you're putting a big %^&*ing target right there on your thick head and you are begging them to take a shot.
You have some very powerful people looking to take you out and you're begging them to do it.
And by the way, it wouldn't have killed you to run this by us before you went and did it.
You crossed the line.


"The line."
What line is that?
How many law suits have I defended you against when these 'innocent bystanders' decide to sue the $%^# out of you when your family fights monstrosities *right* in the middle of Times Square rush hour?
Was that *"crossing the line"*? That upset the balance?
And you, Luke...
You want to keep going to basketball courts and punching drug dealers in the face? That's fine.
Go ahead, I'm not judging *you*.
But I am so *sick* of you telling me *"how it is according to Luke Cage."*
We're your friends, Matt, you and I-- we go way back.
I know we're friends, and you forget I can *hear* your heartbeats.
I know you're sincere.
I know you mean *every* word you're saying.
That's what makes me that much more out of my mind *angry* at all of you for coming here and giving me this *face* full of your judgmental *crap* after all the things I know *you've* done in your life.
Giving *me* crap when what you should be doing is helping.
Helping?
See, that's the thing of it, man. That's what you're not hearing.
You're bringing heat on *all* of us.
We can't help *you*.
This is too far out.
This isn't something we can support.
Uh-huh...


So...
Is that what you *really* came down here to say?
You're washing your hands of me?
No, I'm saying you keep this up...
You washed your hands of us.
I just want you to think about the *balance* we bring to the people--
Nothing out of you, Dr. Strange?
The Ancient One once told me a wise proverb that said...
Yeah, you know what? Fine.
42 St-
Station


Oh %^&*, he's coming towards us. Is he?
Told you.
I told you.
Oh man. What's he doing?
He made us. He's looking right at us.
What should we do?


A-agent Driver, what should we do?




Nothing. He's not coming here.
Don't engage him unless he engages us.


By the book, guys.
By the book.
File it in your daily log.


I just-- I don't understand where they come off, Matthew.
Well, sweetie, they do have a point.
Maybe.
But, as you said, they should deal with themselves before they come to you with--
Milla, do--do you remember where to go and who to call if the worst ever was to happen?
What is it?
Oh.
Oh no...
Go now.
Are you sure?
Go now!
No... No.
Milla, go now-- that way-- or they will kill you. Please. You promised.
Oh God...
You promised!
Oh...
Oh no...


TAP
TAP
TAP


10 AV


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MARVEL
PSR 4
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X-MEN

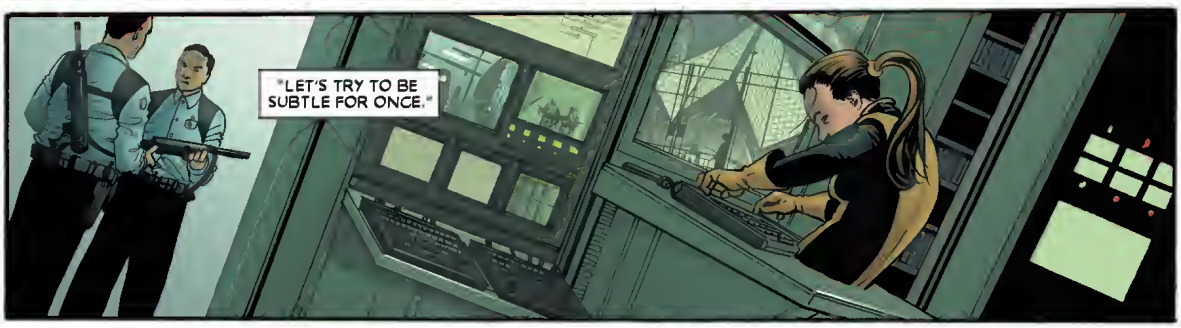

I HAVE COME SO FAR.


I WORKED FOR DECADES TO REACH MY PLACE...
NOTHING COULD STOP ME. THERE WERE GREAT WARRIORS--AND FRIENDS--LEFT BLOODIED IN THE KILLING GROUND, SO THAT I COULD FULFILL MY DESTINY...
TO BE CHOSEN FOR THE GREAT MISSION...
TO COME HERE.
TO THIS SMALL, STINKING WORLD...TO WORK FOR YEARS WITHOUT BLOOD ON MY FISTS. WITHOUT RELEASE. WITHOUT RESPECT...
IT IS TIME ALL OF THAT CHANGED.
IT'S TIME THE X-MEN PAID FOR MY PATIENCE.


JET'S PREPPED.
THE OTHERS ARE COMING.
YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO--
OF COURSE NOT. BENETECH MIGHT BE USING A MUTANT FOR TISSUE SAMPLES. THAT'S ALL. I DIDN'T SPECIFY.
BECAUSE WE PROBABLY WON'T FIND ANYTHING CONCLUSIVE.
LIKE A WARM BODY?
GOOD TO GO.
LET'S BRING ON SOME HURT.


THIS IS RECON. LOGAN. UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH WE'RE JUST LOOKING.
WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH. SUMMERS.
ANIMALS.
REPENT
KITTY'S ON POINT.


THEY'VE GOT THE DELUXE DETECTION PACKAGE IN THERE, SO YOU'LL WANT TO START FROM BELOW.
SECURITY MAINFRAME SHOULD BE HOUSED IN THE BASEMENT. THINK YOU CAN DISABLE IT WITHOUT TRIPPING ANYTHING?
IT'S DONE.
WHEN DO I GET TO DISABLE SOMETHING?
OH, SHEATHE IT, WILL YOU?
INSPIRING COSTUMES NOTWITHSTANDING, WE'RE NOT HEROES TONIGHT.

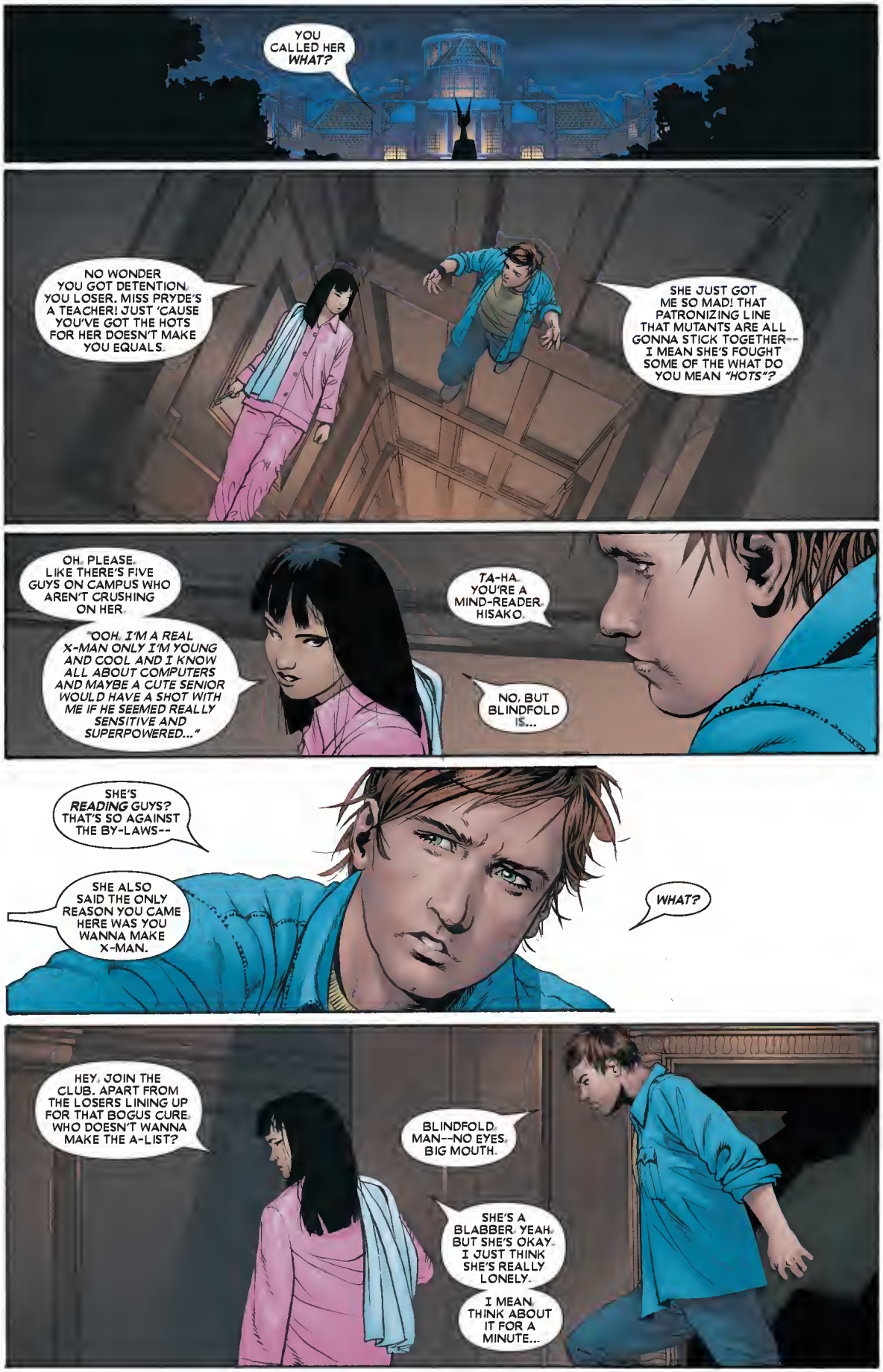

"LET'S TRY TO BE SUBTLE FOR ONCE."


PLACE IS A BIT OF A MAZE, BUT THE MAIN RESEARCH CENTER IS DEFINITELY UP TOP.


GOD, BUT THAT IS UNNERVING.
WRIGGLE LIKE THAT NEXT TIME AND I'LL LOSE MY GRIP IN THE MIDDLE OF A WALL. YOU'LL FUSE MOLECULES.
AS DEATHS GO, IT'S NOT THE FUNNEST.


THREE GUARDS ON THIS FLOOR.
THEY CAME OVER ALL SLEEPY JUST NOW.

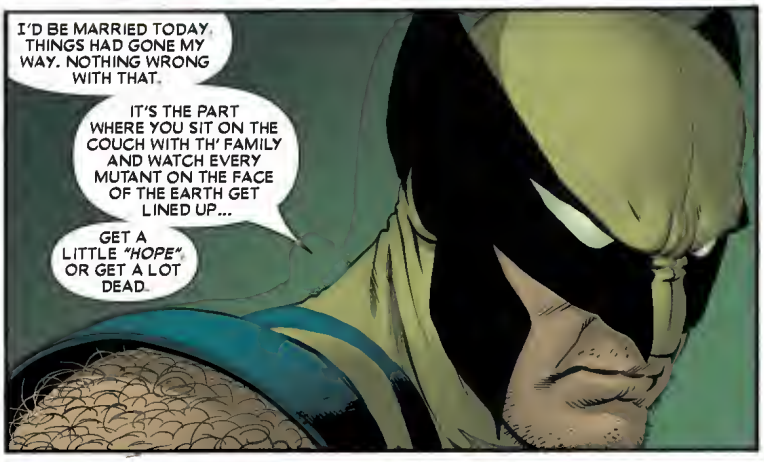

TEAMS.
WE WORK EVERY FLOOR.


YOU CALLED HER *WHAT?*
NO WONDER YOU GOT DETENTION, YOU LOSER. MISS PRYDE'S A TEACHER! JUST 'CAUSE YOU'VE GOT THE HOTS FOR HER DOESN'T MAKE YOU EQUALS.
SHE JUST GOT ME SO MAD! THAT PATRONIZING LINE THAT MUTANTS ARE ALL GONNA STICK TOGETHER-- I MEAN SHE'S FOUGHT SOME OF THE WHAT DO YOU MEAN *"HOTS"?*
OH, PLEASE. LIKE THERE'S FIVE GUYS ON CAMPUS WHO AREN'T CRUSHING ON HER.
"OOH, I'M A REAL X-MAN ONLY I'M YOUNG AND COOL AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT COMPUTERS AND MAYBE A CUTE SENIOR WOULD HAVE A SHOT WITH ME IF HE SEEMED REALLY SENSITIVE AND SUPERPOWERED..."
TA-HA. YOU'RE A MIND-READER, HISAKO.
NO, BUT BLINDFOLD IS...
SHE'S *READING* GUYS? THAT'S SO AGAINST THE BY-LAWS--
SHE ALSO SAID THE ONLY REASON YOU CAME HERE WAS YOU WANNA MAKE X-MAN.
WHAT?
HEY, JOIN THE CLUB. APART FROM THE LOSERS LINING UP FOR THAT BOGUS CURE, WHO DOESN'T WANNA MAKE THE A-LIST?
BLINDFOLD, MAN--NO EYES, BIG MOUTH.
SHE'S A BLABBER, YEAH, BUT SHE'S OKAY. I JUST THINK SHE'S REALLY LONELY.
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT FOR A MINUTE...


MINUTE'S UP.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, SCOTT? PRETEND I DON'T FEEL YOUR HEART RACE WHEN YOU THINK OF JEAN?
SHE'S A PART OF ME, EMMA. COMES WITH THE PACKAGE, WHICH YOU *KNOW*.
THE WOMAN WAS NO GOOD FOR YOU.
ATTACKING HER IS NEVER GONNA--
RIGHT, RIGHT. BASE DEFILEMENT. JEAN GREY IS A SACRED COW.
AT LEAST WE AGREE ON *HALF* OF THAT.

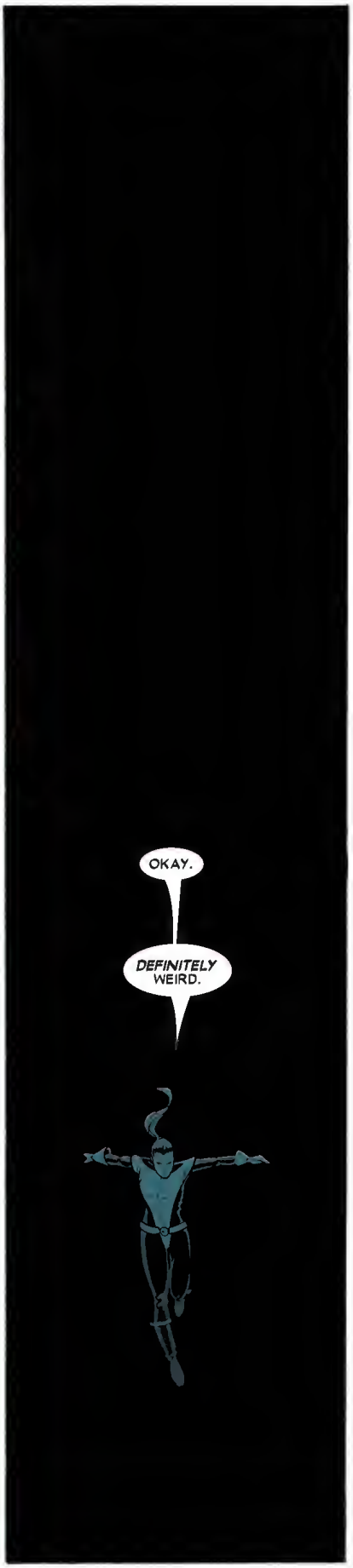

OKAY. THIS IS WEIRD.
IT'S METAL. LOCKHEED, AND I CAN'T FIND THE END.
THERE'S NO SUB-BASEMENT-- IT JUST GOES DOWN.
YOU STAY HERE AND DON'T EAT ANYONE.
I'M GONNA CHECK IT OUT.
"HOPE."
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLING THE CURE NOW. "HOPE." IT WAS ON THE NEWS.
CATCHY. EH?


WHAT'RE *YOU* HOPING FOR?
LOSE THE FUR... NICE GIRL, COUPLE OF KIDS AND A TEACHING JOB SOMEWHERE THAT DOESN'T GET BLOWN UP TOO OFTEN?
YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY TALKING ME OUT OF IT THERE, LOGAN.
YOU THINK I DON'T GET IT?


I'D BE MARRIED TODAY, THINGS HAD GONE MY WAY. NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
IT'S THE PART WHERE YOU SIT ON THE COUCH WITH TH' FAMILY AND WATCH EVERY MUTANT ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH GET LINED UP...
GET A LITTLE *"HOPE"*, OR GET A LOT DEAD.


TELL YOUR KIDS HOW PROUD YOU ARE TO HAVE HELPED START THAT OFF...ASSUMING THEY'RE NOT MUTIES THEMSEL--
HOLD IT.
YOU CATCH THAT SCENT?


FEMALE.
DEAD.


OKAY.
DEFINITELY WEIRD.

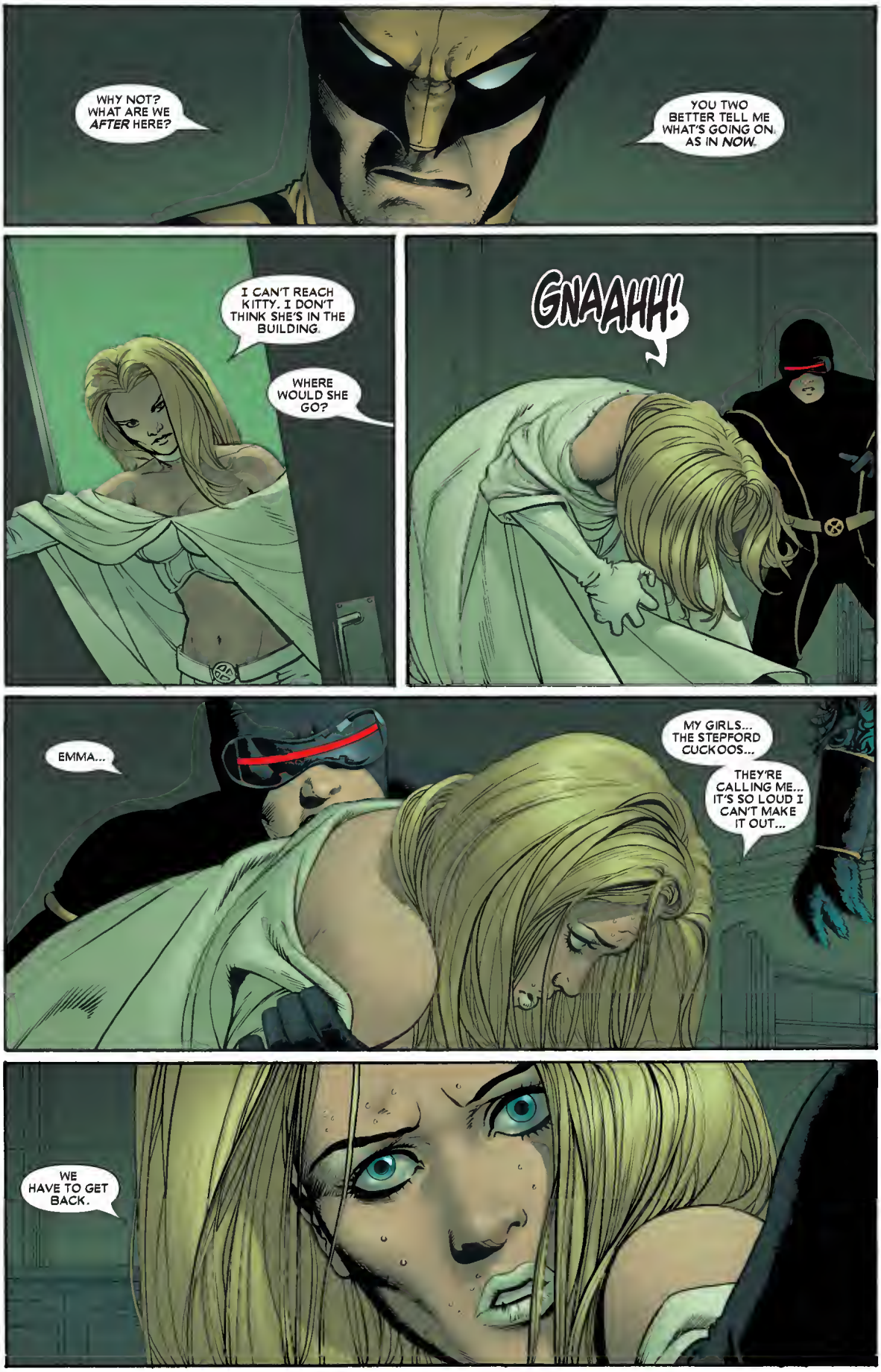

AND YOU'RE *SURE* THEY'RE NOT HERE?
I SAW THE X-PLANE TAKE OFF LIKE TWO HOURS AGO.
AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT.
A MISSION OR SOMETHING...I MEAN THEY DON'T TELL US STUFF LIKE THAT.
THIS IS VERY FRUSTRATING.
DID YOU WANNA LEAVE THEM A MESSAGE OR...
OH GOD THAT'S SO STUPID...
WE'RE NOT X-MEN. WE'RE JUST KIDS AND UM...YOU COULD COME BACK...
YOU TWO ARE MUTANTS.
BUT WE'RE NOT LIKE COOL ONES OR ANYTHING...
WING...
YOU'VE HELPED ME. YOU HAVE MY THANKS FOR THAT.
AND YES...
...I *WILL* LEAVE THE X-MEN A MESSAGE.
WING...


GET OUT!
CONGRATULATIONS.
YOU STARTLED ME.
NOW, BOY...

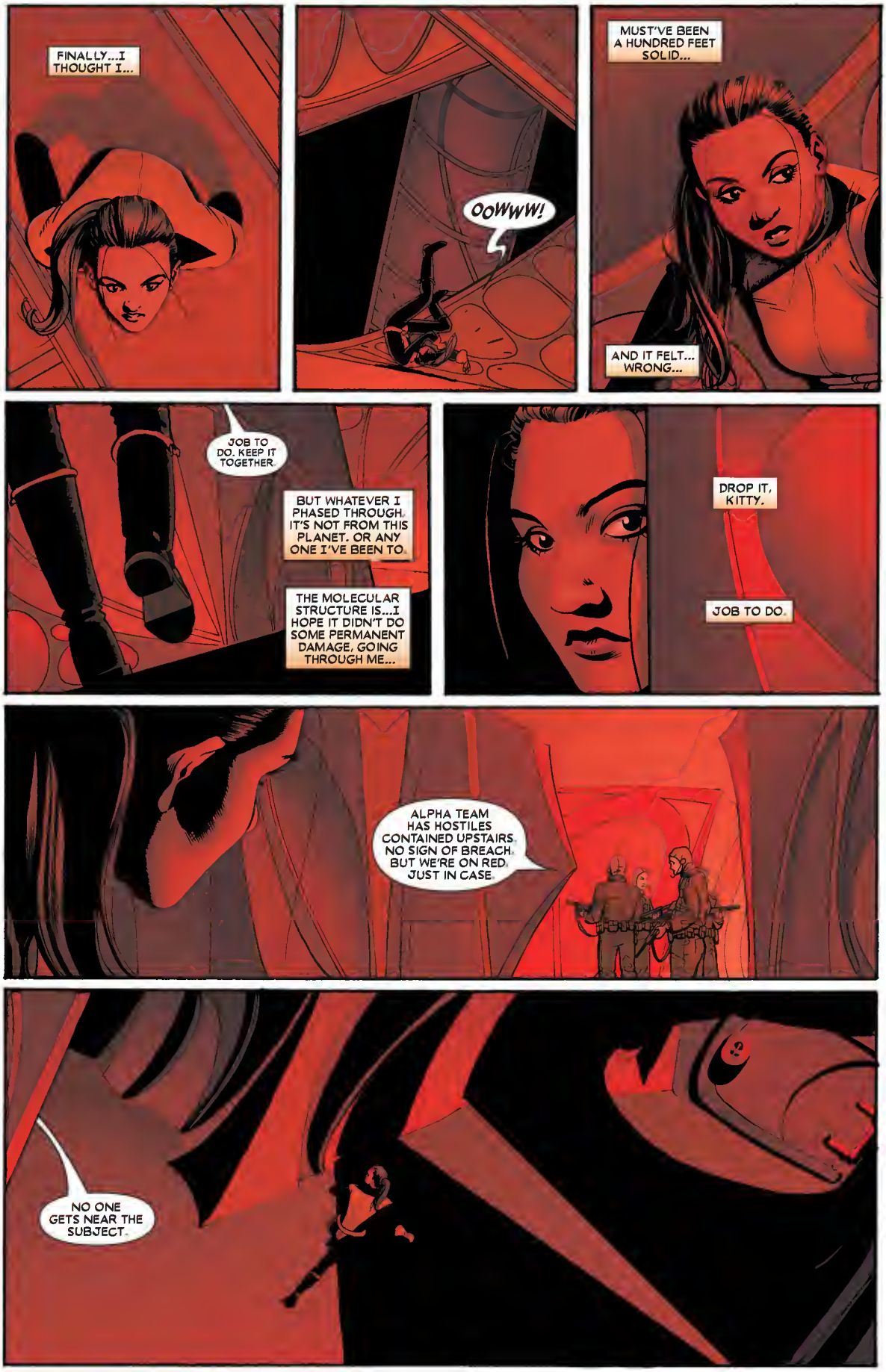

CRRISHH
HISAKO...
WHAT AM I DOING, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER THERE...
I WAS TALKING TO YOU, BOY.


FFFT
GNNAAH!
NOW YOU WILL GIVE THEM MY MESSAGE.
THAT THE MUTANT ABOMINATION WILL *NEVER* BE A THREAT TO THE BREAKWORLD.
THAT *MAN* WAS NOT *MEANT* TO FLY.
WHO IS IT?


WE DON'T KNOW HER.
STRIATIONS ON HER WRISTS WOULD INDICATE SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE.
OR SOMEONE MADE IT LOOK LIKE SHE DID...
FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE. WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER DEATH...
...THIS IS SICKENING.
IT'S ALL HAPPENING HERE, PEOPLE. THE CURE, THESE LITTLE EXPERIMENTS.
ONE WELL-AIMED MISSILE FROM THE JET AND WE ALL SLEEP EASY.
WE CAN'T JUST TORCH BENETECH, LOGAN. WE STILL DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING.
THIS CAN'T BE THE ONLY BODY.

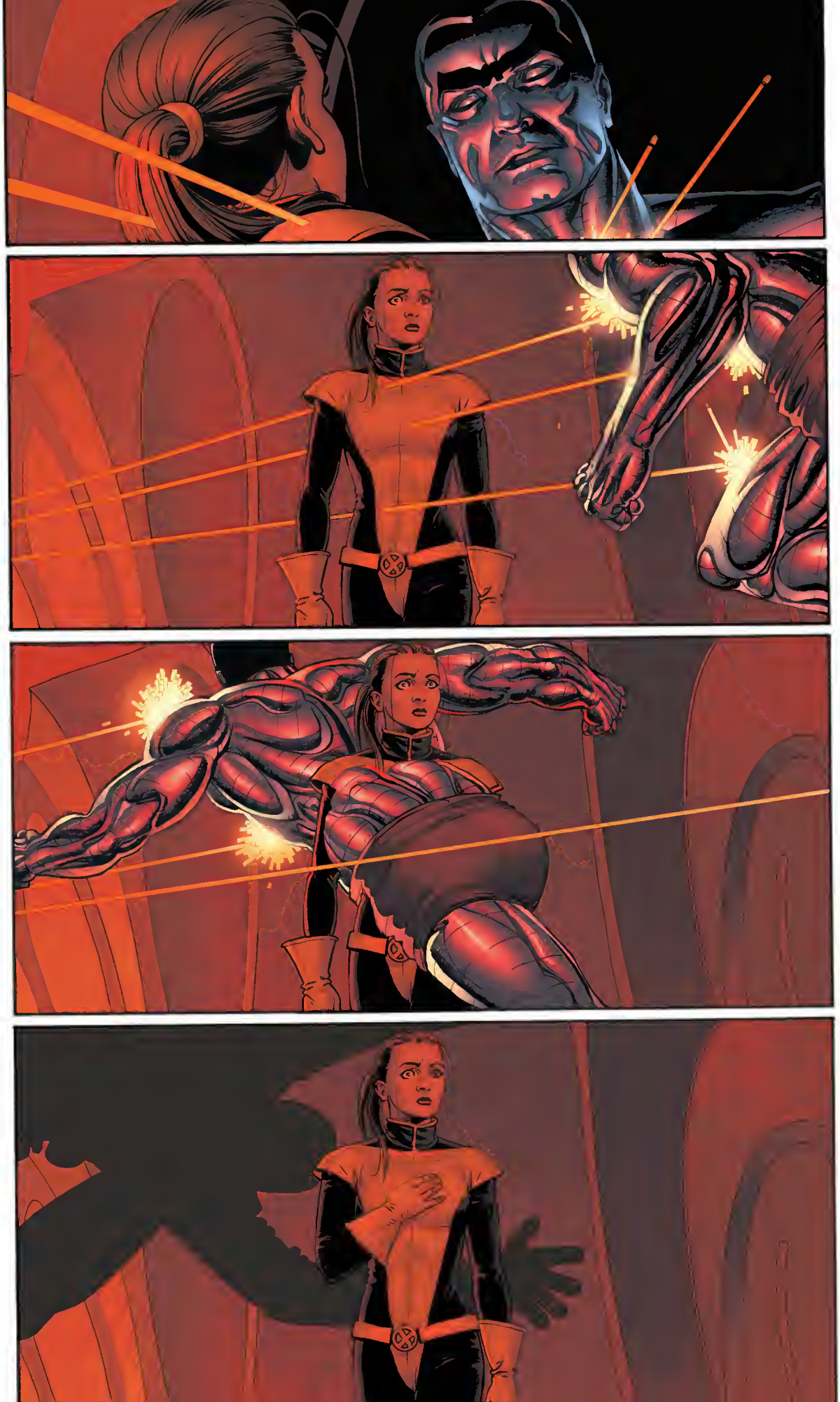

WHY NOT? WHAT ARE WE *AFTER* HERE?
YOU TWO BETTER TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON. AS IN *NOW*.
I CAN'T REACH KITTY. I DON'T THINK SHE'S IN THE BUILDING.
WHERE WOULD SHE GO?
GNAAHH!
EMMA...
MY GIRLS... THE STEPFORD CUCKOOS...
THEY'RE CALLING ME... IT'S SO LOUD I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT...
WE HAVE TO GET BACK.


TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
SCOTT!
AGHK... I'M JUST TAGGED...
NNNAHH... X-MEN, SOUND... SOUND OFF...
MAKE A MOVE.
MAKE JUST ONE MOVE.


FINALLY...I THOUGHT I...
OOWWW!
MUST'VE BEEN A HUNDRED FEET SOLID...
AND IT FELT... WRONG...
JOB TO DO. KEEP IT TOGETHER.
BUT WHATEVER I PHASED THROUGH, IT'S NOT FROM THIS PLANET. OR ANY ONE I'VE BEEN TO.
THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE IS...I HOPE IT DIDN'T DO SOME PERMANENT DAMAGE, GOING THROUGH ME...
DROP IT, KITTY.
JOB TO DO.
ALPHA TEAM HAS HOSTILES CONTAINED UPSTAIRS. NO SIGN OF BREACH. BUT WE'RE ON RED, JUST IN CASE.
NO ONE GETS NEAR THE SUBJECT.


ALIEN OR NO, THERE'S NOT A LOCK I CAN'T POP...
AND IF THE "CONTAINED HOSTILES" MEANS THE REST OF THE X-MEN...IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS PLACE.
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO.
WE HAVE A HOSTILE!
DROP HER! DROP HER!
KRAAW!
KLING

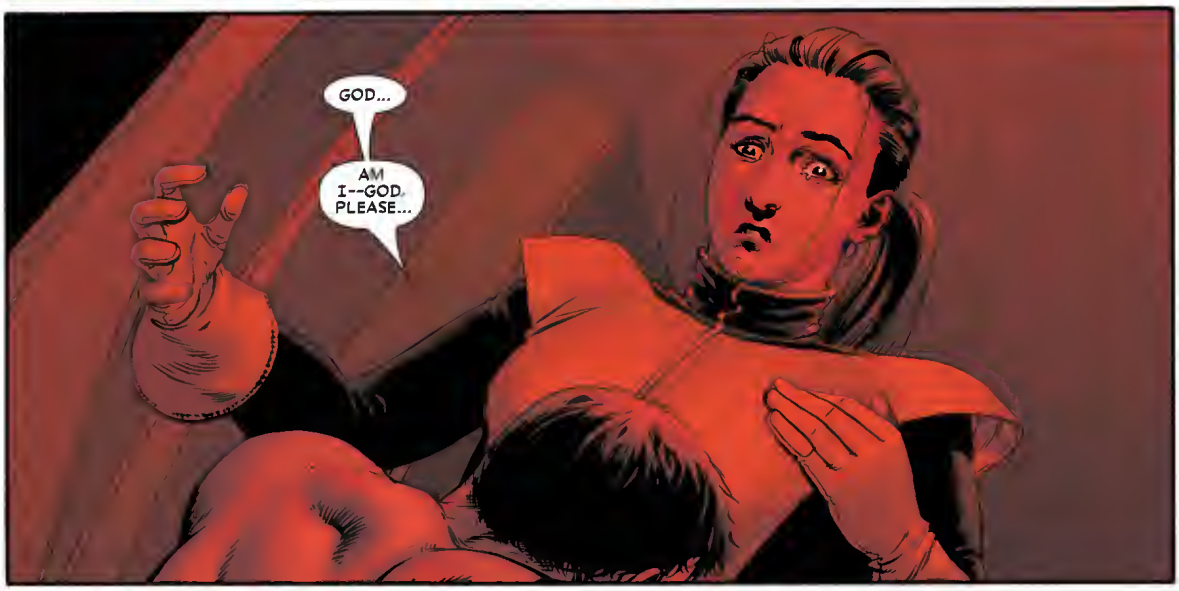




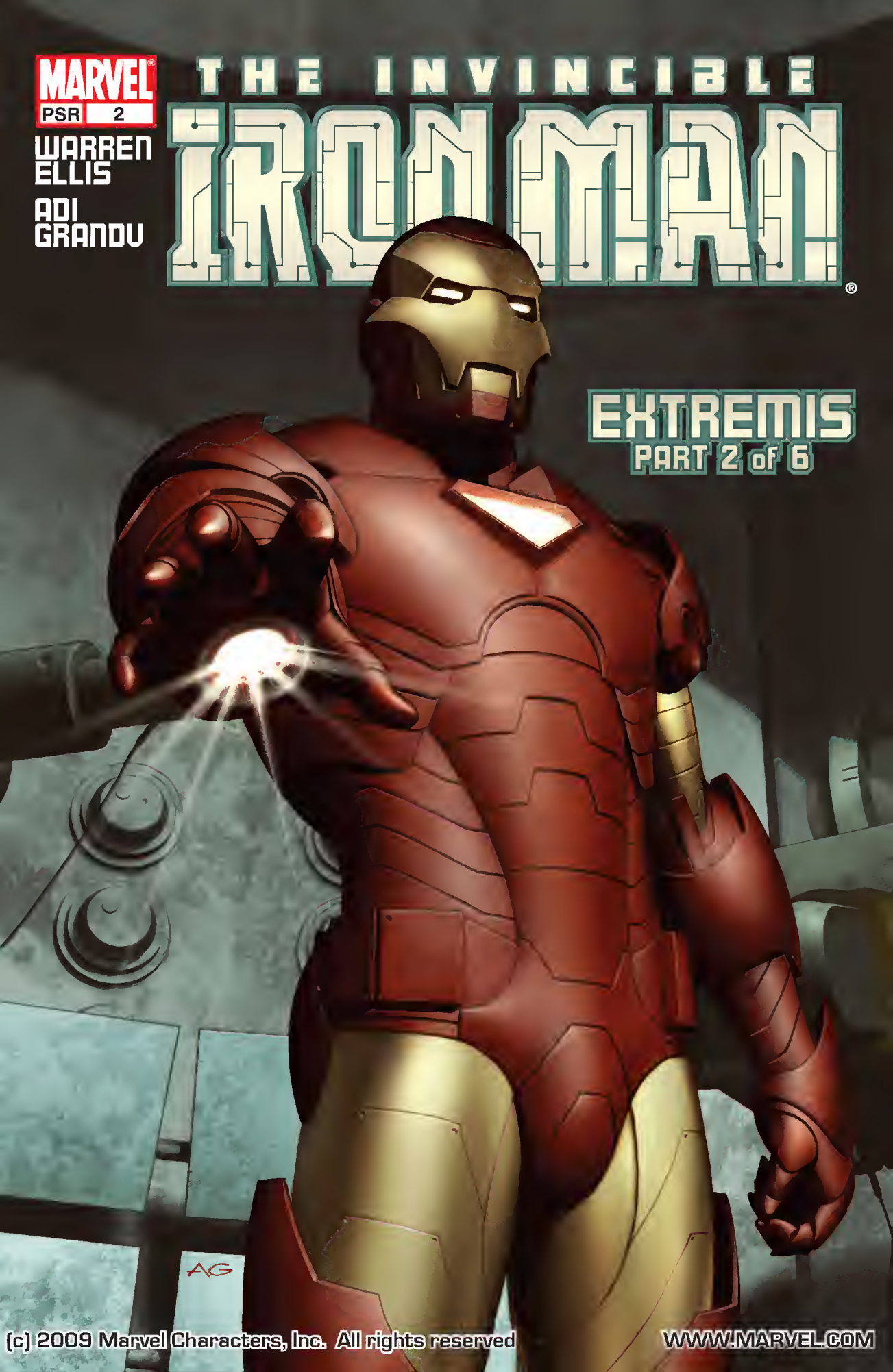

PETER...
STOP!
PETER...


PLEASE STOP...
YOU'LL KILL THEM...
KATYA?
OH, GOD...


FINALLY...


GOD...
AM I--GOD, PLEASE...


...AM I FINALLY DEAD?



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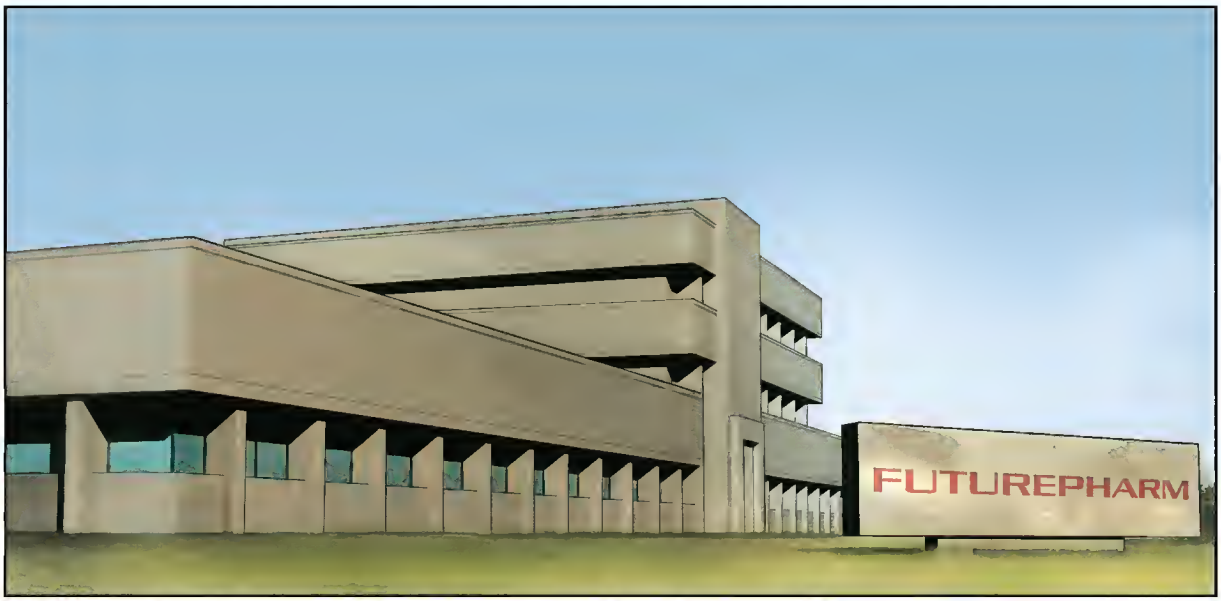


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WE'RE CALLING IT THE STARK BEAM 01 RIGHT NOW--WE AGREED WITH YOU THAT IT'D BE BEST TO BUILD THE BEAM INSTANT-MESSAGING SYSTEM RIGHT IN.
YOUR TEST HANDSET THERE HAS A SPECIAL STAGE OF FUNCTIONALITY. IT CONNECTS DIRECTLY TO THE STARK ZIPSAT CONSTELLATION.
IT HAS SATELLITE INTERNET ACCESS?
BROADBAND ACCESS. YOU CAN DOWNLOAD AN MP3 TO YOUR PHONE IN THIRTY SECONDS.
YOU CAN HOOK THE PHONE TO ANY COMPUTER VIA WI-FI, BLUETOOTH, USB OR FIREWIRE.
IT'S THE KILLER PHONE, TONY. NOKIA WILL BE WEEPING INTO THEIR LUTEFISK.
NOW FOR THE PART THAT'LL MAKE YOU SHOUT AT US, TONY.
OH, COME ON, GEOFF....
...A C.E.O. NEEDS TO BE IN THE OFFICE.
THERE'S NO STARK WITHOUT YOU. WE ALL AGREE THAT THERE'S NO STARK WITHOUT YOU TINKERING IN YOUR GARAGE, TOO.
TAKING A CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST ROLE DOESN'T TAKE YOUR CONTROL AWAY.
BUT IT'LL LET SOMEONE ELSE RUN THE COMPANY.
AND THE FIRST THING THAT'LL HAPPEN IS THAT WE'LL TAKE ON MILITARY CONTRACTS AGAIN.
YOU STILL DESIGN FOR S.H.I.E.L.D., TONY.


S.H.I.E.L.D.'S AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. IT'S DIFFERENT.
WE'VE JUST INVENTED THE BEST CELL PHONE ON EARTH. WE DON'T NEED MILITARY MONEY ANYMORE.
TONY, WE'RE HIP-DEEP IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON THIRTY DIFFERENT THINGS, EIGHTY PERCENT OF WHICH WON'T REALIZE ANY MONEY IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.
MILITARY MONEY IS THE EASIEST WAY TO IMPROVE CASH FLOW.
I MEAN, WE COULD LICENSE TECHNOLOGIES ELSEWHERE. BUT WE NEED YOU TO SIGN OFF ON THOSE.
AND WHEN YOU SPEND SIX WEEKS IN THE GARAGE...
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, YOU HAVE TO LET SOMEONE HELP YOU.


FUTUREPHARM




MAYA...


I WALKED RIGHT INTO THE OFFICE, AND THERE HE WAS...
WHOA, WHOA.
MY PROJECT DIRECTOR KILLED HIMSELF AND-- DAMMIT--


HE STOLE MY PROJECT AND GAVE IT TO SOMEONE. AND WE DON'T KNOW WHO.

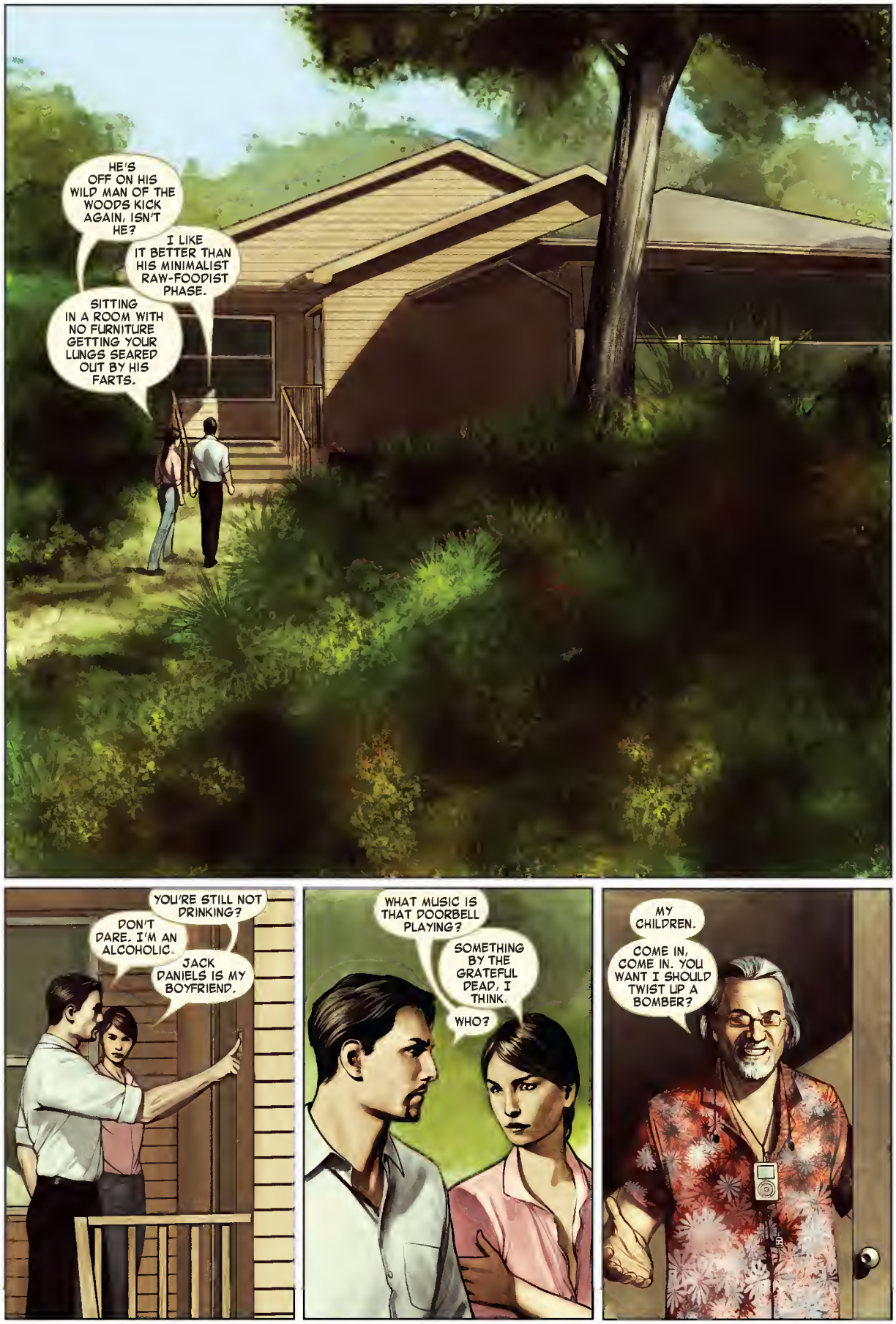

SHOW ME HIS OFFICE.


THE COMPUTER'S STILL HERE?
THE POLICE HAVE BEEN AND GONE. THEY SAID THEY'RE SENDING ANOTHER TEAM TO PICK IT UP.
WE CAN'T BREAK ITS SECURITY.
HM.
THE PROJECT-- WAS IT YOUR FIELD?
BIOELECTRICS, ROBOTIC MICROSURGERY.
MARKKO. TONY STARK. I NEED A FAVOR.
I'M GOING TO SEND YOU AN ENTIRE COMPUTER HARD DRIVE VIA ZIPSAT, OKAY? I NEED IT CRACKED.
YEAH. STAND BY.
ZIPSAT?
MY OWN CONSTELLATION OF SATELLITES PROVIDING WIRELESS BROADBAND INTERNET.
YOU KNOW, THE PAPERS CALL YOU A LADIES' MAN. BUT I REALLY CAN'T IMAGINE THAT MAKES GIRLS LAY DOWN...
IT MAKES ME LOTS OF MONEY. I USUALLY FIND THAT DOES THE TRICK.
THERE.
CLASSY WOMEN YOU KNOW.
EXTREMELY.
YOU KNOW WHAT? LET'S GO SEE SAL.
YOU THINK?
HE'S STILL IN THE BAY AREA, RIGHT? SAL ALWAYS MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER. AND YOU DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND HERE.
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T FEEL LIKE PACKING.
PACKING, HELL. MY PLANE'S ON STANDBY AND I'LL HAVE A CAR WAITING AT SFA.
I HAVE A VERY FAST PLANE. YOU'LL BE BACK HERE FOR DINNER. LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE FOR A WHILE.
YOU HAVE A PLANE.
PLANES. SIMILAR TO THE QUINJET DESIGN I GAVE TO THE AVENGERS. ONLY, YOU KNOW, FASTER.
YOU ARE SO WEIRD.


Bastrop, Tx


To Houston, Tx: 190 Miles
2R31
2R31


FBI Houston Division
FBI
FBI


HE'S OFF ON HIS WILD MAN OF THE WOODS KICK AGAIN, ISN'T HE?
I LIKE IT BETTER THAN HIS MINIMALIST RAW-FOODIST PHASE.
SITTING IN A ROOM WITH NO FURNITURE GETTING YOUR LUNGS SEARED OUT BY HIS FARTS.
YOU'RE STILL NOT DRINKING?
DON'T DARE. I'M AN ALCOHOLIC.
JACK DANIELS IS MY BOYFRIEND.
WHAT MUSIC IS THAT DOORBELL PLAYING?
SOMETHING BY THE GRATEFUL DEAD, I THINK.
WHO?
MY CHILDREN.
COME IN, COME IN. YOU WANT I SHOULD TWIST UP A BOMBER?


NOT ME.
I DON'T TOUCH IT ANYMORE. MAKES ME SLEEPY.
MY CHILDREN HAVE BECOME WEENIE STRAIGHT PEOPLE. THE HORROR.
COME THROUGH. COME THROUGH. I JUST PRESSED SOME APPLE JUICE.

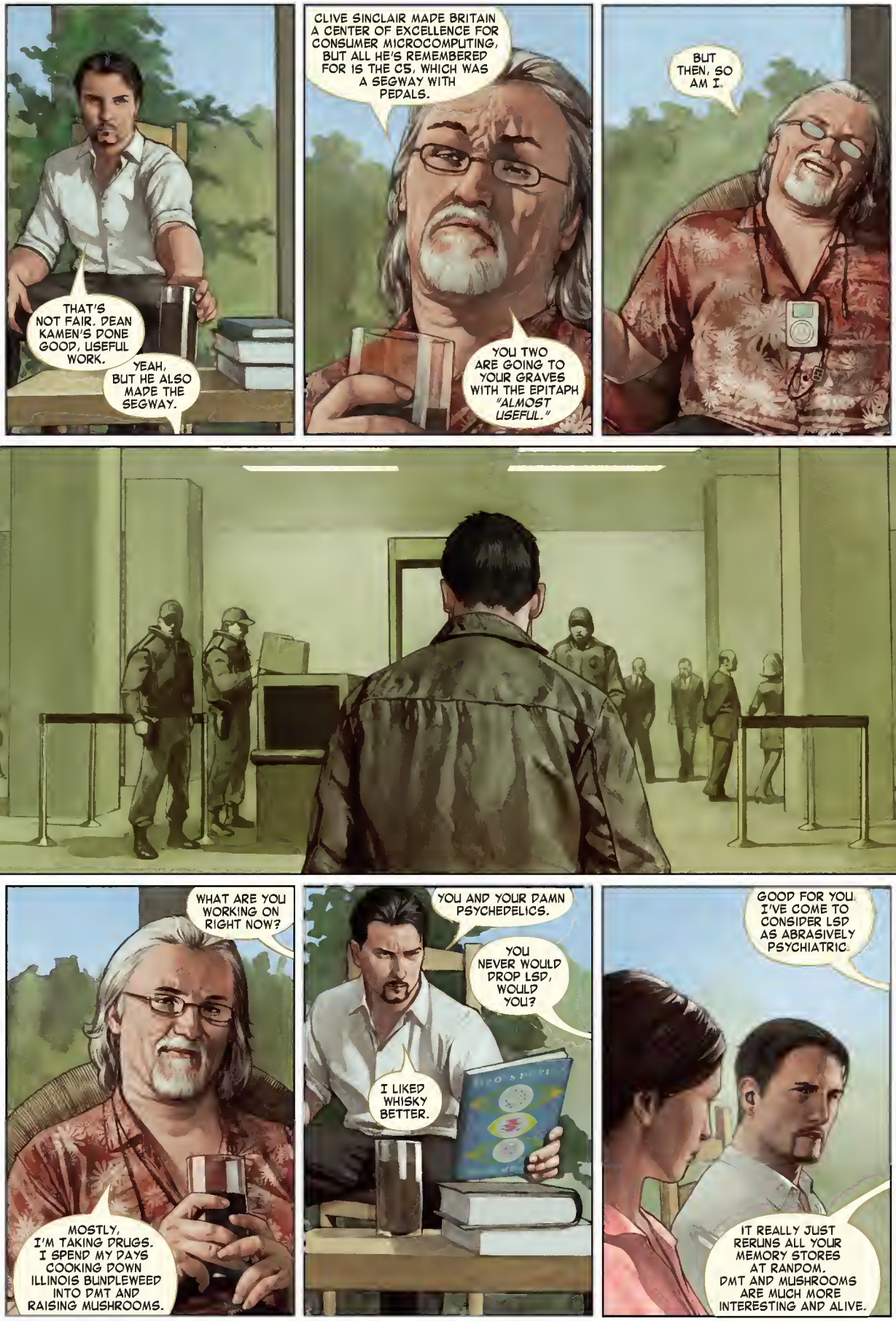

SIT. SIT.
I KNOW IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH TO YOU MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL-FUNDED TYPES. BUT IT SUITS ME NOW.
I'M SOLO, SAL. AND MAYA'S SALARIED BY AN INDEPENDENT--


YES, YOU'RE BOTH WORKING FOR THE MILITARY. FOR CORPORATIONS. FOR THE GOVERNMENT.
YOU FAIL TO SEE THAT THEY ARE ALL THE SAME THING.
THESE ARE INESCAPABLE TRUTHS. YOU CANNOT DO THE SCIENCE YOU WANT WITHOUT STEPPING INTO THEIR POOL.


I DO A WHOLE RAP ABOUT THIS AT ESALEN IN THE SUMMERTIME. YOU KNOW. UNDER THE TEACHING TREE.
THE TEACHING TREE.
YEAH, I KNOW.


TECH PEOPLE GO OUT THERE TOO. THERE'S ONE GUY WHO BELIEVES ALL TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION WORK SHOULD BE DONE "FROM THE HEART."
HE TAKES HIS CODEMONKEYS OUT THERE AND MAKES THEM DO YOGA 'TIL THEY PUKE."
IT "GETS THE HEART CENTER WORKING."


THIS IS THE PROBLEM WITH THINKING AT THIS LEVEL.
THE BASIC TRUTHS--THAT AMERICA IS NOW BEING RUN AS A POST-POLITICAL CORPORATE CONGLOMERATE--ARE TOO BITTER TO SWALLOW.
IT'S EASIER FOR HALF-SMART PEOPLE TO THINK THE PATH TO FREEDOM REQUIRES YOU TO STAND ON ONE LEG FOR AN HOUR.
WE'RE FACING UP TO THE FUTURE. BUT WE CAN'T SEE IT.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT'D BE YOU TWO WHO'D BE ROAD TESTING THE FUTURE FOR US.
BUT YOU, YOU'RE STUCK IN ESSENTIALLY PUNCHING *BIOLOGICAL* STRUCTURE UNTIL IT GIVES UP AND DOES WHAT YOU WANT.
AND TONY, YOU'VE FIDDLED WITH SOME MEDICAL PATENTS AND BUILT A SUPER HERO SUIT.
SHE'S THE EDWARD TELLER OF BIOLOGY AND YOU'RE THE DEAN KAMEN OF TECHNOLOGY.


THAT'S NOT FAIR. DEAN KAMEN'S DONE GOOD, USEFUL WORK.
YEAH, BUT HE ALSO MADE THE SEGWAY.
CLIVE SINCLAIR MADE BRITAIN A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR CONSUMER MICROCOMPUTING, BUT ALL HE'S REMEMBERED FOR IS THE C5, WHICH WAS A SEGWAY WITH PEDALS.
YOU TWO ARE GOING TO YOUR GRAVES WITH THE EPITAPH "ALMOST USEFUL."
BUT THEN, SO AM I.
WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?
MOSTLY, I'M TAKING DRUGS. I SPEND MY DAYS COOKING DOWN ILLINOIS BUNDLEWEED INTO DMT AND RAISING MUSHROOMS.
YOU AND YOUR DAMN PSYCHEDELICS.
YOU NEVER WOULD DROP LSD, WOULD YOU?
I LIKED WHISKY BETTER.
GOOD FOR YOU. I'VE COME TO CONSIDER LSD AS ABRASIVELY PSYCHIATRIC.
IT REALLY JUST RERUNS ALL YOUR MEMORY STORES AT RANDOM. DMT AND MUSHROOMS ARE MUCH MORE INTERESTING AND ALIVE.


DMT INTERESTS ME BECAUSE IT GETS TO A PLACE BEYOND YOUR MEMORY STORES.
YOU KNOW SOMETHING LIKE SIXTY PERCENT OF PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME HALLUCINATIONS ON DMT?
TERENCE MCKENNA, REST HIS SOUL, CALLED THEM "SELF-TRANSFORMING MACHINE ELVES".
LITTLE BOUNCING TECHNOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS THAT SPOKE A BASIC MACHINE CODE THAT, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR LANGUAGE, YOU COULD UNDERSTAND.
HE THOUGHT HE'D ACCESSED THE AFTERLIFE.
I THINK IT'S THE OPERATING SYSTEM OF THE HUMAN BODY.
THE BRAIN IS ACTUALLY DESIGNED TO TAKE IN AND PROCESS DMT, DID YOU KNOW THAT?
I THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE IT. I THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SEE OUR OWN OPERATING SYSTEMS.
PERHAPS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HACK THEM. PERHAPS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CHANGE OUR OWN BODIES.



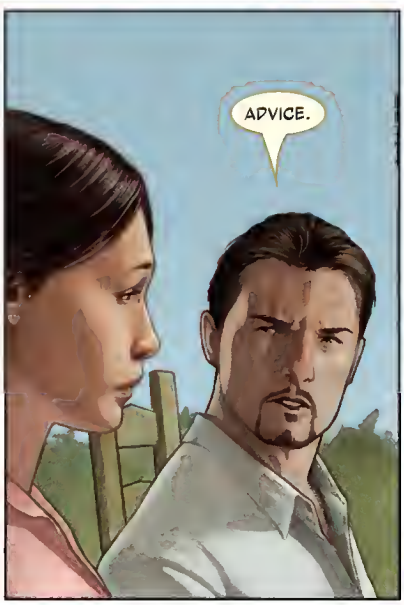

DRUGS ARE TECHNOLOGIES, TONY.
IN THE PLACES WHERE HUMANITY FIRST AROSE, THERE WERE PSYCHEDELIC MUSHROOMS. IT'S A MEDICAL FACT THAT THOSE MUSHROOMS IMPROVE VISUAL ACUITY.
THAT WOULD MAKE EARLY HUMANS BETTER HUNTERS.


THE IRON MAN SUIT YOU BUILT, TONY--IT HAS SENSORS, ZOOM LENSES AND THE LIKE?
YES.


SAME THING. WHATEVER POOR MORON YOU STUFF INTO THAT SUIT CAN SEE BETTER. SAME WITH EARLY HUMANS WHO HAD MUSHROOMS IN THEIR DIET.
I IMAGINE YOUR EXTREMIS PROCESS REDESIGNED THE HUMAN EYE, TOO.


YEAH.
AND YOU WERE BOTH IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING BETTER HUNTERS. HAVEN'T STRAYED FAR FROM THE PACK, HAVE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU BOTH HERE?


FBI


ADVICE.


AH. COME TO SEE THE WISE MAN OF THE FOREST. THE OLD SHAMAN.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CALL A SHAMAN IN AUSTRALIA?
THE CLEVER FELLA.


WHICH ONE OF YOU IS IN TROUBLE?
THAT WOULD BE ME.
LET ME GUESS. THE OLD SUPER-SOLDIER THING. THAT'S ALWAYS BUGGED YOU. MICROELECTRONIC PLUG-INS FOR THE BRAIN?


YEAH.


Y'KNOW, NO ONE'S EVER GOTTEN A RESULT EXACTLY LIKE OLD ERSKINE DID WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.
YOU KNOW WHAT A HIERONYMUS MACHINE IS?
IT'S A BUNCH OF JUNK IN A BOX. IT JUST HAPPENS TO WORK EXACTLY TO THE EXPERIMENTER'S INTENT.


SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT ERSKINE'S FORMULA WAS A HIERONYMUS MACHINE--THAT IT WAS SIMPLY HIS OWN FORCE OF WILL THAT MADE IT WORK EXACTLY LIKE A PERFECT SUPER-SOLDIER DOSE.


YOU'RE BOTH IN TROUBLE. IT'S JUST THAT *HE* DOESN'T KNOW IT YET.


YOU CAN BARELY LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR, CAN YOU, TONY?
YOU'RE RICH NOW. INDEPENDENT. I HAVE A FEELING YOU DO GOOD WORKS, WHEN YOU CAN.
BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

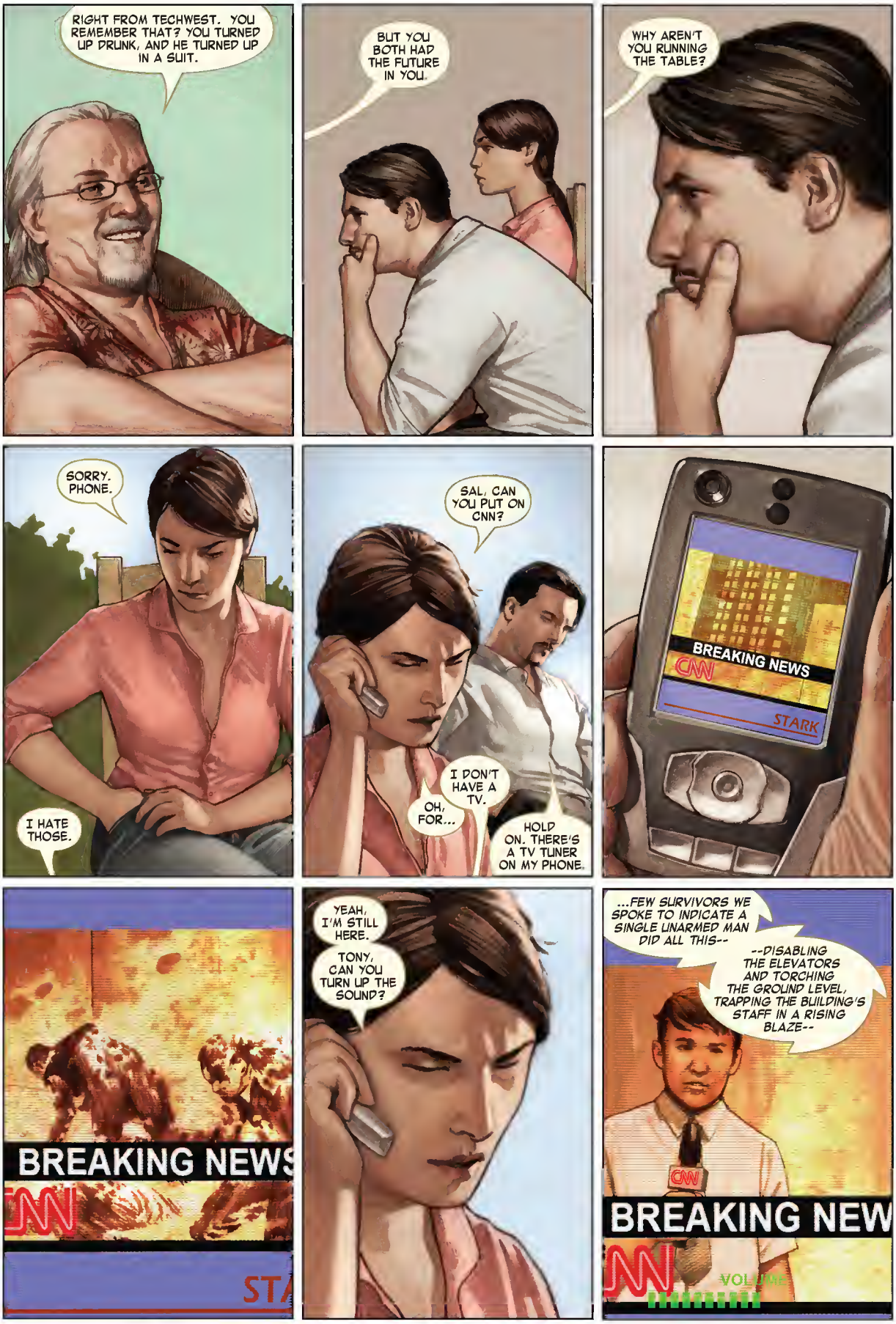

YOU HAVE INTELLECT AND POWER, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH. IT'S LIKE THERE'S A DAM ACROSS YOUR LIFE.
HER PROBLEM IS THAT SHE'S A WOMAN. THERE'S A GLASS CEILING. IT COULD TAKE HER ANOTHER FIVE, TEN YEARS TO GET TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW.
AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU GOT TO TONY'S POSITION?
FOUR YEARS OF ENGINEERING AND I COULD CURE CANCER.
THERE YOU GO.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK OF AT NIGHT, TONY?
...MAKING A BETTER IRON MAN SUIT.
SO THAT YOUR POOR BODYGUARD CAN WRESTLE MONSTERS OR WHATEVER IT IS HE DOES?
NO. AND YOUR JUICE STINKS.
SO WHAT DOES HE DO ASIDE FROM BEATING UP FIN FANG FOOM?
WOULD THE IRON MAN SUIT END WAR?
IT'D BE HARD TO KILL SOMEONE IN AN IRON MAN SUIT.
FOR A YEAR. UNTIL THE SUIT'S SPECS WERE SUPERCEDED. IF THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ALREADY.


PERHAPS BY HER.
AND A *SUIT*, TONY. IS THAT ALL IT CAN BE?
SHE'S WORKING ON MILITARY APPS BECAUSE THAT'S HOW SHE'S GOING TO GET THE FUNDING AND THE SPACE TO CURE DISEASE. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT'S THE IRON MAN *FOR*, TONY?






I TRIED TO INCULCATE IN BOTH OF YOU A SENSE OF THE FUTURE.


RIGHT FROM TECHWEST. YOU REMEMBER THAT? YOU TURNED UP DRUNK, AND HE TURNED UP IN A SUIT.
BUT YOU BOTH HAD THE FUTURE IN YOU.
WHY AREN'T YOU RUNNING THE TABLE?
SORRY. PHONE.
I HATE THOSE.
SAL, CAN YOU PUT ON CNN?
OH, FOR...
I DON'T HAVE A TV.
HOLD ON. THERE'S A TV TUNER ON MY PHONE.
BREAKING NEWS
CNN
STARK
BREAKING NEWS
CNN
YEAH, I'M STILL HERE.
TONY, CAN YOU TURN UP THE SOUND?
...FEW SURVIVORS WE SPOKE TO INDICATE A SINGLE UNARMED MAN DID ALL THIS--
--DISABLING THE ELEVATORS AND TORCHING THE GROUND LEVEL, TRAPPING THE BUILDING'S STAFF IN A RISING BLAZE--
CNN
BREAKING NEW
CNN
VOLUME


--AND LEAVING THE LIVING AND THE DEAD TO BE INCINERATED IN THE LOBBY.
ALMOST SURREAL SCENES OF--OH, GOD, MOVE THE CAMERA, I'M SORRY--
HE WAS, HE WAS BREATHING FIRE. YOU COULD SEE THE RIPPLE OF GAS COMING OUT OF HIS THROAT--
--AND, AND THEN HE CAME BACK, AND THINGS CAME OUT OF HIS HANDS--
WHY ARE WE WATCHING THIS, MAYA?
THE SIGNATURES.
THE FIRE. THE HANDS. A FEW OTHER THINGS.
AN EXTREMIS ENHANCILE DID THIS.
WHOEVER STOLE THE EXTREMIS DOSE TOOK IT, TONY. AND LIVED.
AND DID THIS.
THIS IS STARK. BRING THE LIMO AROUND. PREP THE PLANE FOR IMMEDIATE RETURN TO AUSTIN.
AND TELL MRS. RENNIE I WANT MY CAR FLOWN TO AUSTIN ON THE SISTER PLANE, IMMEDIATELY. IN ITS CRATE.


WHAT DID YOU DO, MALLEN?
WHAT DID I DO?
I JUST STARTED.


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1:15 A.M.
SOMEWHERE BENEATH MANHATTAN
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY HASN'T HE MADE THE CALL?
AID
HE'LL CALL.
BUT IT'S...UH, IT'S BEEN OVER AN HOUR SINCE HE WAS SUPPOSED TO. I DON'T LIKE THIS. JUST SITTING ON OUR HANDS, WAITING WITH ALL THIS--
I JUST DON'T LIKE IT.
AID
SOMETHING MUST'VE HAPPENED. WHY ELSE WOULD HE BE--
COWARDS. IF HE COULD HEAR YOU, YOU'D BE SIGNING YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANTS...
SO JUST DO AS YOU WERE ORDERED, AND DON'T MAKE ME WASTE ONE OF YOU FOR GETTING ON MY NERVES.
NOTHIN'S HAPPENED. HE'LL CALL WHEN HE'S READY...AND THEN WE HAVE OUR FUN.

During the dark days of the early 1940s, a covert military experiment turned Steve Rogers into America's first Super-Soldier, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

Throughout the war, Cap and his partner Bucky fought alongside our infantry and with a group of heroes known as the Invaders. In the closing months of WWII, Captain America and Bucky were both presumed dead in an explosion over the Arctic Ocean.

Decades later, a figure was found trapped in ice, and Captain America was revived. Having slept through more than half of the 20th century, Steve Rogers awakened to a world he never imagined, a world where war had moved from the battlefield to the city streets... A world in dire need of ..

CAPTAIN AMERICA

OUT OF TIME Part 2



A rogue Soviet General, Aleksander Lukin, tries to bargain with the Red Skull for the Cosmic Cube, an object that can alter reality to its bearer's wishes. Even though the Skull does not possess the Cube, he refuses to even entertain the offer.

Years later, the Skull is at last in possession of the Cube, but it is a damaged version and needs to be charged. He plans to cause death and destruction in three cities—London, Paris, and Manhattan—and transmute this death into energy to feed the Cube. He waits in Manhattan to give his signal, wanting to see how his old enemy Captain America will react to his plans, wanting to watch him suffer one last time.

But before he can make the midnight call to put his plans into motion, a cybernetic assassin working for General Lukin shoots him. The Red Skull is dead, and now General Lukin has the Cube.

Writer	Artist	Artist, Pages 3-5 & 11	Colorist	Letterer
Ed Brubaker	Steve Epting	Michael Lark	Frank D'Armata	VC's Randy Gentile

Production	Assistant Editors	Editor	Editor in Chief	Publisher
Jerry Kalinowski	Schmidt, Wiley & Lazer	Tom Brevoort	Joe Quesada	Dan Buckley

Captain America created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby

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WE'RE PINNED DOWN, CAP! WHAT DO WE DO?
LYON
ROUEN
LE MANS
LAVAL
JUST HANG TIGHT, BUCKY...
...HERE COMES THE CAVALRY
MOVE! LET'S GO!

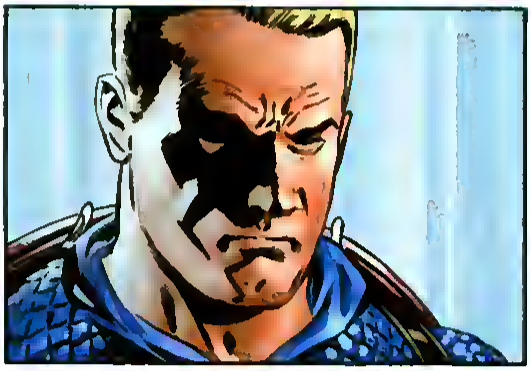

RATATATATA
WAK
CAP...

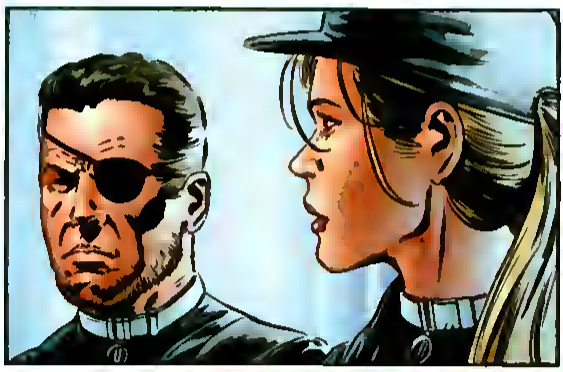

...GOT A LITTLE... TROUBLE HERE..
BUCKY!
OH, GOD. HANG ON...I'LL HAVE YOU TO A MEDIC IN NO TIME. JUST HANG ON.
...HEH... REALLY HAD THEM ON THE... RUN, DIDN'T WE, STEVE...? SORRY TO--
NO
NO! DAMN IT! NOO--


--OOOOOO!
ARMY
OKAY... WHAT THE HELL BATTLE WAS THAT? SEEMED SO FAMILIAR... BUT NOT RIGHT.
NOT RIGHT AT ALL. BUCKY NEVER GOT SHOT IN THE BELLY.
GOD, DO I HATE IT WHEN DREAMS AND MEMORIES COLLIDE.
SHOULD PROBABLY JUST GO FOR A RUN... WHAT IS THIS, TWO HOURS OF SLEEP? SHOULD--
B-DEEP-DEEP! B-DEEP-DEEP!
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMUNICATIONS? AT THIS HOUR?
B-DEEP-DEEP!
ROGERS
STEVE, IT'S SHARON.
TWICE IN ONE DAY... WHAT'S UP?
YOU'RE NEEDED ON THE HELICARRIER. ASAP.
WHAT IS IT?
I'LL BRIEF YOU ON THE RIDE. MEET ME ON YOUR ROOF IN TWO MINUTES. I'LL BE WAITING.


S.H.I.E.L.D. Hellcarrier–
Headquarters of the U.N.
Peacekeeping Taskforce
High Above the
City of Manhattan
SO. I'M ASSUMING AGENT 13 FILLED YOU IN ON THE BASICS?
YES. BUT I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT. AND PROBABLY NOT EVEN THEN. HONESTLY.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BUT IT'S REAL. ROGERS THE SKULL GOT KILLED TONIGHT
ONLY THING STOPPING ME FROM REPORTING THAT TO THE U.N IMMEDIATELY IS THE FORENSICS...WHICH IS ONE OF THE REASONS I NEEDED YOU HERE.
MY DNA?
YEAH. POLICY IS TO DESTROY YOUR BLOOD SAMPLES AFTER YOUR CHECKUPS. TO PREVENT JUST THIS PROBLEM...SO I'VE GOTTA GO TO THE SOURCE.
OH GOD...I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN THAT MONSTER WAS LIVING INSIDE A CLONE OF YOU STEVE
YEAH... I HADN'T








YOU'RE TELLING ME HE WAS SHOT THROUGH THE HEART?
I'M NOT *TELLING YOU* ANYTHING. THAT'S WHAT *HAPPENED*.
HIGH-POWERED SNIPER-ROUND WOULD'A BEEN DEAD BEFORE HE HIT THE FLOOR.
THIS *ISN'T* HIM. IT'S SOME KIND OF TRICK.
ANYONE CAN WALK IN FRONT OF A BULLET, ROGERS. WE *BOTH* KNOW THAT... STILL, ONLY ONE WAY TO *PROVE* IT, AS I SAID.


DOCTOR? WOULD YOU TAKE A DNA SAMPLE FROM THE CAPTAIN HERE?
OH, UH... OF *COURSE*, COLONEL FURY. I MEAN, IF THAT'S... UH...OKAY WITH--
DO IT.
IF THAT REALLY IS HIM. WHAT WAS HE *DOING* IN NEW YORK? THE SKULL IS NEVER ANY PLACE WITHOUT A *REASON*.
WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET. HE WAS *FOUND* IN A PENTHOUSE ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE. IT WAS MOSTLY UNFURNISHED. RENTED UNDER A FAKE NAME.
YOU JUST *HAPPENED* TO FIND HIM?
NO. SOMEONE CALLED IN A TIP TO THE COPS. WE SCRAMBLED THEIR LINE AND GOT THERE FIRST TO KEEP A *LID* ON IT.
I WANT TO SEE THAT *CRIME SCENE*. NOW.
OF COURSE YOU DO.

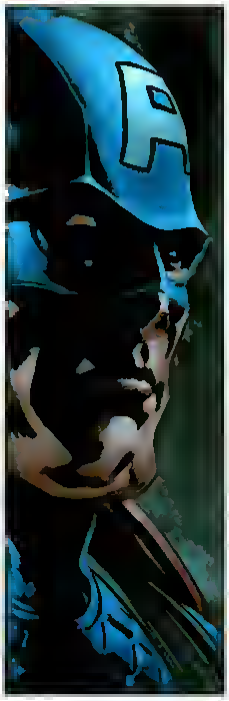

GLASS WAS BULLET-RESISTANT, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER WITH HIGH-VELOCITY ROUNDS.
NEAR AS WE CAN TELL HE WAS ON THE PHONE WHEN HE GOT HIT FOUND HIS CELL LYING HERE.
THE LAB IS GOING OVER IT BUT IT WAS SECURE. DIDN'T KEEP RECORDS OF IN- OR OUTGOING CALLS. MAY NOT GET ANYTHING USEFUL.
SHIELD

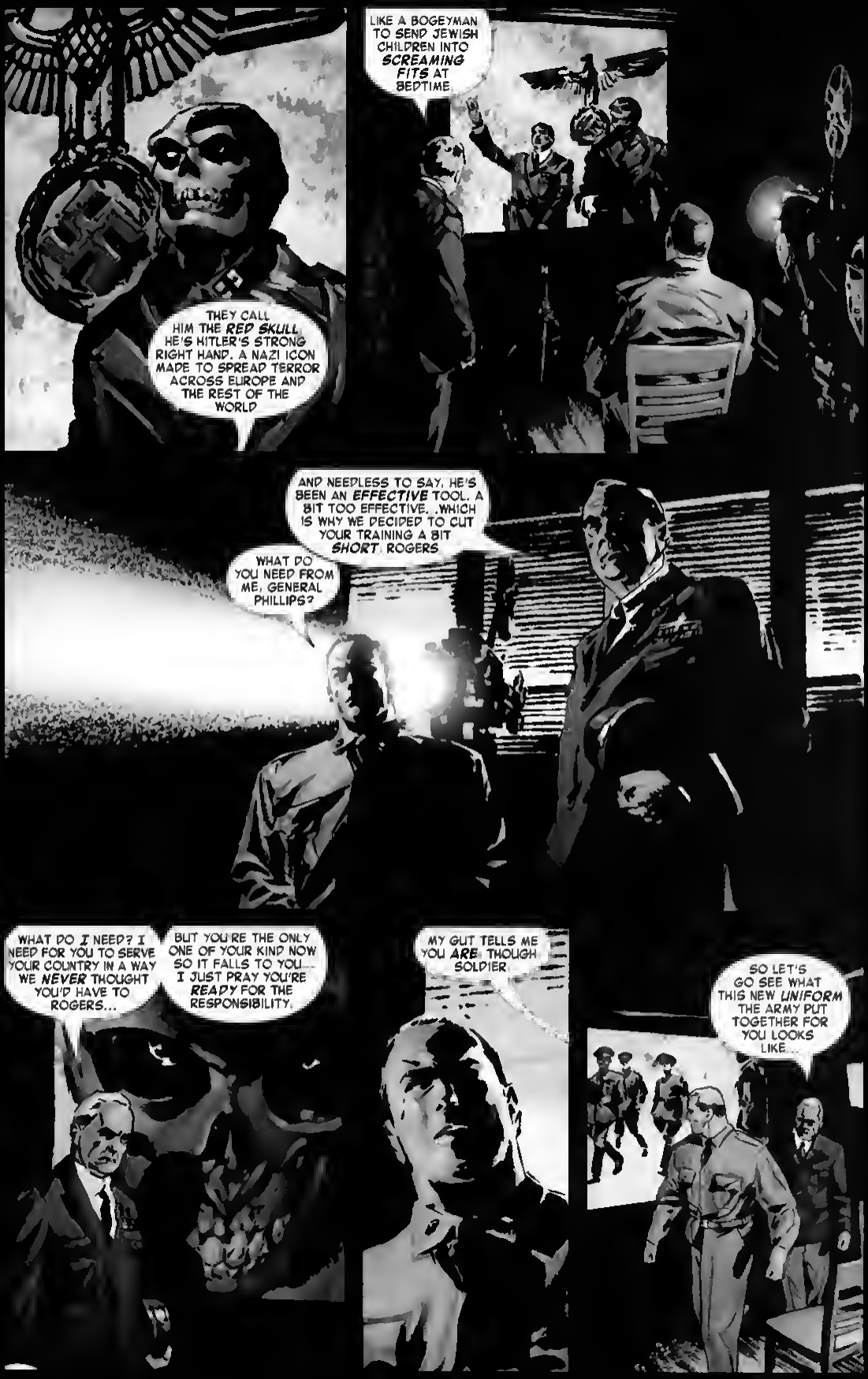

I DON'T LIKE THIS, FURY. THIS FEELS LIKE A SETUP.
I THINK IT'S REAL. THAT FACE, YOU CAN'T MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT TWICE. NOT THAT EXACT.


HUNH... THIS... HNH.
STEVE? WHAT IS IT?


HIS DISGUISE.
YEAH, ONE THING ABOUT HAVING A SKULL FOR A FACE. IT'S EASY TO WEAR A FAKE ONE AND BLEND IN.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. I SAW THIS MAN ON THE STREET YESTERDAY.


HE WAS WATCHING ME... MAYBE IT REALLY IS HIM...




THEY CALL HIM THE RED SKULL. HE'S HITLER'S STRONG RIGHT HAND. A NAZI ICON MADE TO SPREAD TERROR ACROSS EUROPE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD
LIKE A BOGEYMAN TO SEND JEWISH CHILDREN INTO SCREAMING FITS AT BEDTIME.
AND NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE'S BEEN AN EFFECTIVE TOOL. A BIT TOO EFFECTIVE. .WHICH IS WHY WE DECIDED TO CUT YOUR TRAINING A BIT SHORT, ROGERS
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME, GENERAL PHILLIPS?
WHAT DO I NEED? I NEED FOR YOU TO SERVE YOUR COUNTRY IN A WAY WE NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE TO ROGERS...
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OF YOUR KIND NOW SO IT FALLS TO YOU... I JUST PRAY YOU'RE READY FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY.
MY GUT TELLS ME YOU ARE, THOUGH SOLDIER.
SO LET'S GO SEE WHAT THIS NEW UNIFORM THE ARMY PUT TOGETHER FOR YOU LOOKS LIKE...


STEVE?
I WAS CREATED BECAUSE OF HIM...IN A WAY.
COLONEL FURY? WE'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE.
WOULDN'T LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT THIS DISPLAY CASE IS FOR, BY ANY CHANCE?
CAN'T BE SURE YET, BUT THIS DEVICE ATTACHED TO THE OUTSIDE OF IT...IT'S SOME KIND OF NEXT-GENERATION RECEIVER.
FOR RECEIVING WHAT?
DON'T KNOW YET. BUT I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING...IT'S GOT SEVERAL OPEN FEEDS RIGHT NOW. LIKE IT'S WAITING FOR SOMETHING.
WE REVERSED THE SIGNAL AND GOT A TRACE ON ONE OF THE FEEDS RIGHT AWAY...
...IT'S HERE IN MANHATTAN, SIR.


YOU SURE THIS IS BEST JUST THE TWO OF US?
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE SKULL WAS UP TO
...WE GO BARRELING IN WITH A WHOLE S.H.I.E.L.D. ASSAULT TEAM AND WE COULD JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE...
THE TWO OF US HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING IN UNSEEN AND ASSESSING THE SITUATION...
OR, I CAN DO THIS ON MY OWN, IF YOU'D RATHER WAIT HERE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SNITTY. I JUST WOULD'VE BROUGHT A LITTLE BACK-UP, THAT'S ALL
I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO LET YOU GO INTO THIS ON YOUR OWN
LET'S NOT GET STARTED DOWN THAT PATH AGAIN. I'M WELL AWARE THAT FURY THINKS YOU'RE BABY-SITTING ME...
THAT'S NOT WHAT ANYONE THINKS AT ALL...
ON? THEN WHAT'S HIS HIDDEN AGENDA THIS TIME OUT?
OR DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE ALL THOSE MEANINGFUL GLANCES BETWEEN YOU TWO TONIGHT?

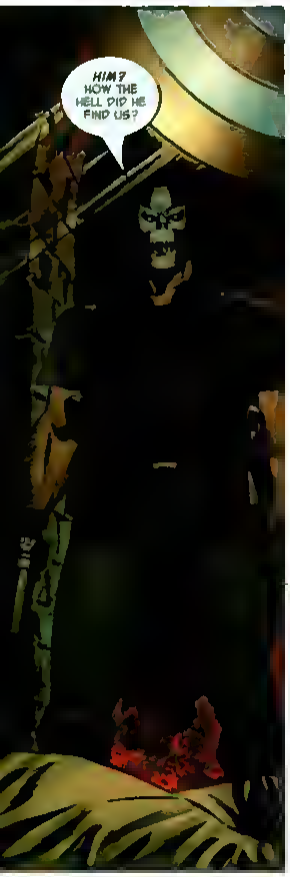

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS. LET'S JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND.
SHARON...
FINE.
HE WANTS ME TO FIND OUT IF YOU KILLED THE SKULL
WHAT?
I KNOW. I TOLD HIM THERE WAS NO WAY.
NO MATTER WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW, YOU AREN'T AN ASSASSIN AND YOU NEVER WOULD BE.
AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANCE THAT'S REALLY THE RED SKULL BEING AUTOPSIED ON THE HELICARRIER.
OKAY. BUT IF IT'S NOT, THEN WHY ARE WE TRUDGING THROUGH UNDERGROUND TUNNELS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
JUST IN CASE.
TO THINK I'D FORGOTTEN HOW FRUSTRATING YOU COULD BE...


SOMETHING AHEAD OF US THIS COULD BE IT.
YOU GOT A HEAD COUNT?
LET YOU KNOW IN A MINUTE.
A
A
AID
AID
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
Y-Y-YES.
WHAT IS THIS ON YOUR ARM, A.I.D.?
AD-ADVANCED IDEAS IN D-D-DESTRUCTION.
WORKING FOR THE SKULL?
Y-YES. BUT, I'M JUST A--


LARRY? YOU NEED ANY--
HEY!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SO MUCH FOR GETTING IN UNSEEN, I GUESS
STAY BEHIND ME.

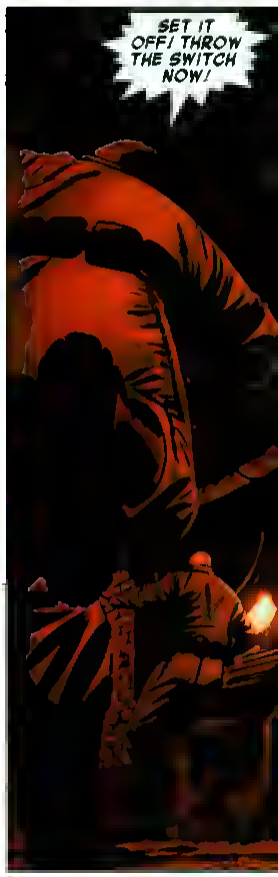

WHAT THE HELL?
KRAK KRAK KRAK
--IS AGENT 13. I REPEAT, WE ARE TAKING HOSTILE FIRE! I NEED THAT TACTICAL ASSAULT TEAM, NOW!
NOT ON MY WATCH YOU DON'T


AID
AID


HIM? HOW THE HELL DID HE FIND US?






SET IT OFF! THROW THE SWITCH NOW!


SMACK

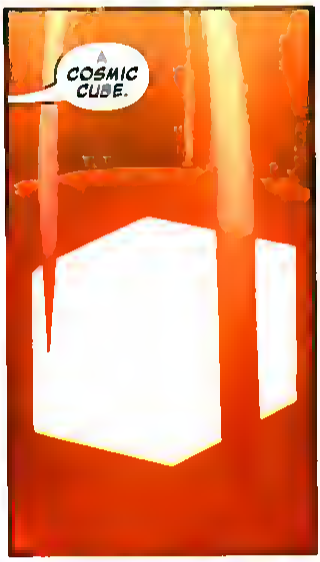

K-WANG
AHHHH!
AAAAHGH--
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME
IS THAT?


SOME KIND OF BOMB. I'M GOING TO GUESS FIRE-BASED THANKS TO OUR FRIEND HERE.
STEVE, IT'S ACTIVE. HE MUST'VE HIT THE TIMER WHEN HE SLAMMED INTO IT
HOW DO WE DEACTIVATE IT?
I WISH I KNEW.
FIRESTORM
OH. WAIT... I DO.
WHAT?
THESE GUYS ARE ROGUE A.I.M., RIGHT? WHEN HAVE YOU EVER RUN INTO AN A.I.M. DEVICE THAT COULD RUN WITHOUT MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF POWER?
PROBABLY PART OF WHY THEY HAD IT DOWN IN THESE OLD TUNNELS. HAD IT HOOKED RIGHT INTO THE GRID.
SO, THIS WAS THE SKULL'S PLAN? TO SET OFF SOME KIND OF INSANE ELECTRICAL FIREBOMB IN THE HEART OF THE CITY.
SOUNDS LIKE HIM, BUT TO WHAT END OTHER THAN MASS MURDER?


THAT'S NOT ENOUGH?
NOT FOR THE SKULL. NOT USUALLY.


AGENT 13 TO COLONEL FURY. WE NEED A SCIENCE TEAM DOWN HERE NOW. FOUND A MEAN-LOOKING W.M.D. OF SOME KIND.
IT'S NEUTRALIZED FOR NOW BUT--
WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS THAN THAT, AGENT.


GOT A WEIRD ENERGY SIGNATURE OFF THAT GLASS CASE. SO WE RAN A THERMAL SCAN...AND NOW WE KNOW WHAT WAS INSIDE OF IT


A COSMIC CUBE.


WHICH MEANS WHOEVER KILLED THE RED SKULL TONIGHT HAS GOT IT...


"...AND WE STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO THAT IS."
IT'S ME... NO NO, WE DIDN'T GET A CALL EITHER BUT NOW I KNOW WHY
BECAUSE SOMEBODY KILLED HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT THEY DID...WELL, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD DO, IDIOT?
SET YOUR FRIGGIN TIMER AND CALL PARIS AND TELL THEM TO DO THE SAME THING
HE MAY NOT BE HERE TO SEE IT, BUT THIS WORLD IS GONNA BURN TONIGHT IN HIS MEMORY.
TO BE CONTINUED...


MARVEL KNIGHTS®
MARVEL PSR 57 437
BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • ALEX MALEEV
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
ヤクザ
JACK
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ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND, BUT HIS OTHER FOUR SENSES FUNCTION WITH SUPERHUMAN SHARPNESS AND A RADAR SENSE. WITH AMAZING FIGHTING SKILLS HE STALKS THE STREETS AT NIGHT, A RELENTLESS AVENGER OF JUSTICE: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
STORY
ALEX MALEEV
ART

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
CORY PETIT
LETTERS

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR
KELLY LAMY
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

Previously in Daredevil...

One of the biggest tabloid newspapers in the city outted Matt Murdock: Daredevil's secret identity revealed.

The secret is out.

Matt Murdock is now faced with a continuing uphill battle of publicly denying his secret life as Daredevil because simply admitting it would get him disbarred and jailed.

But Matt's public struggle makes his alter ego more popular with the people than ever before.

Daredevil rescues a blind girl named Milla Donovan from almost being hit by a truck. Milla approaches him as Matt because of an attraction she feels and they start to see each other.

Then Daredevil does the unthinkable.

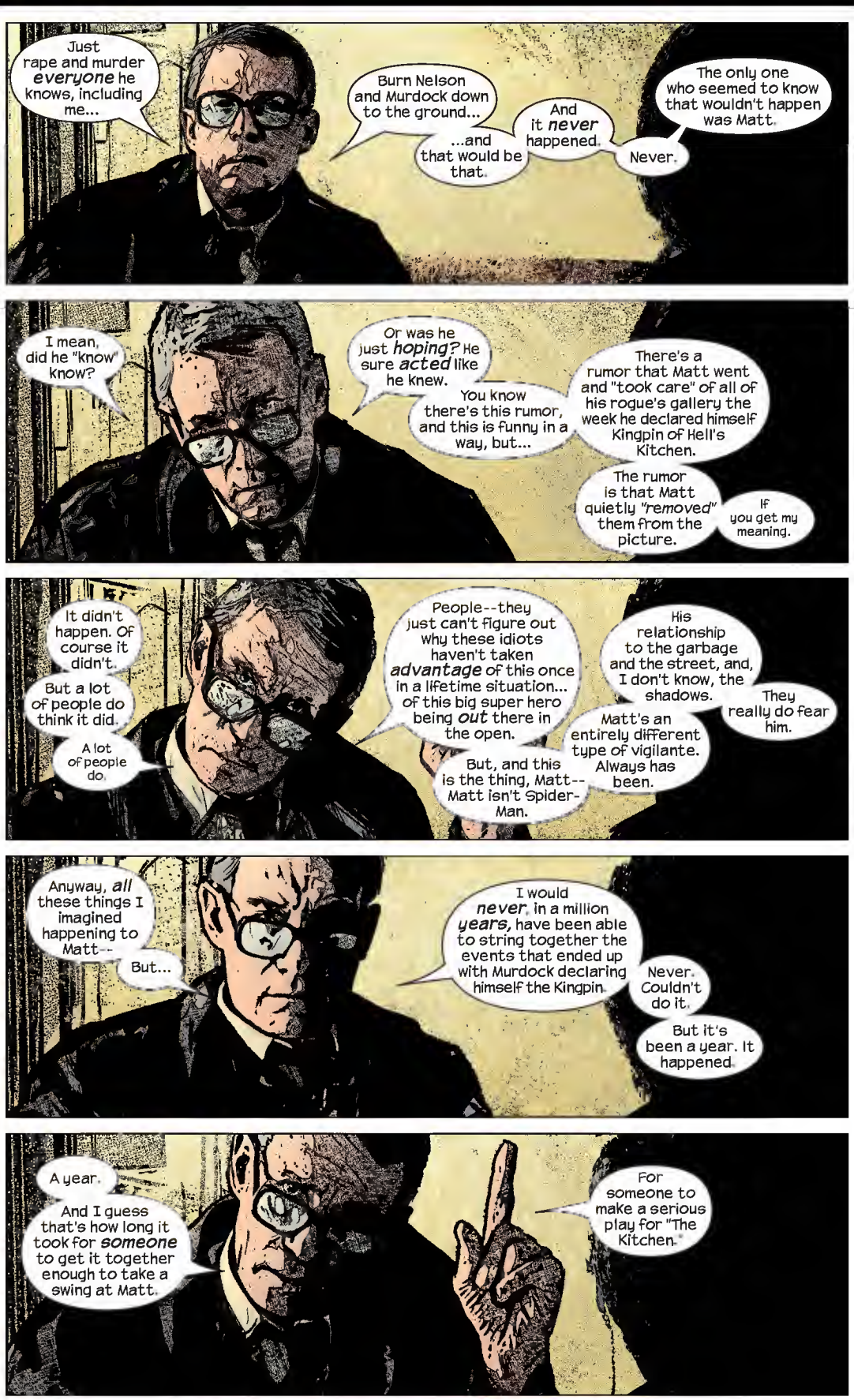
Faced with the growing frustration that his fight with the Kingpin would never end, Daredevil beat him publicly and then removed his own mask... announcing to the underworld of the city that he was now the Kingpin and that his new rule was clean up or get out.

Ben Urich, a reporter for the Daily Bugle and an estranged friend of Matt Murdock, now tells the story of Matt Murdock's year as the Kingpin of Hell's Kitchen to a mysterious person.

The King of Hell's Kitchen: Part 2

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My wife doesn't understand.
She thinks I had the winning lottery ticket in my hand and tossed it away.
I don't know if you know this or not--
not many people do...
But I knew Matt Murdock was Daredevil way before the world found out that Matt Murdock is Daredevil.
I've known for years.
Figured it out all by myself--being an investigative reporter for a major piece of crap paper right here in New York City...
The reason I never broke the story myself...the reason I didn't make my career with it...
And it would have made me.
I would be rich. Awards, book deals, movie deals, talk shows... there's no question.
But, I knew that outing him would do nothing but hurt.
Hurt the city. Hurt Matt.
His friends. His family.
I couldn't live with it. I mean, morally.
The repercussions of it all.
But, see, I knew it was going to happen eventually.
I just didn't want to be the one that did it.
How did I know it was going to happen?
I mean. If someone from the media, me, knew...
And his greatest adversary, the Kingpin, knew...
Not to mention the people in his personal life.
Well...
Because Matt was just so damn sloppy with it. So cavalier.
Years ago, though, sometimes I would find myself laying in bed and...
I would just try to imagine what would happen to Matt if I just did it?
Just outed him myself and took the money and--and just did it.
I would imagine all these crazy things...
Like, all the bad guys he used to smack around...
All of them... Like the Purple Man or the Jester or that Mr. Fear...
All those guys...
I imagined that his enemies would get together, team up, pool resources and--and--
And just destroy him.

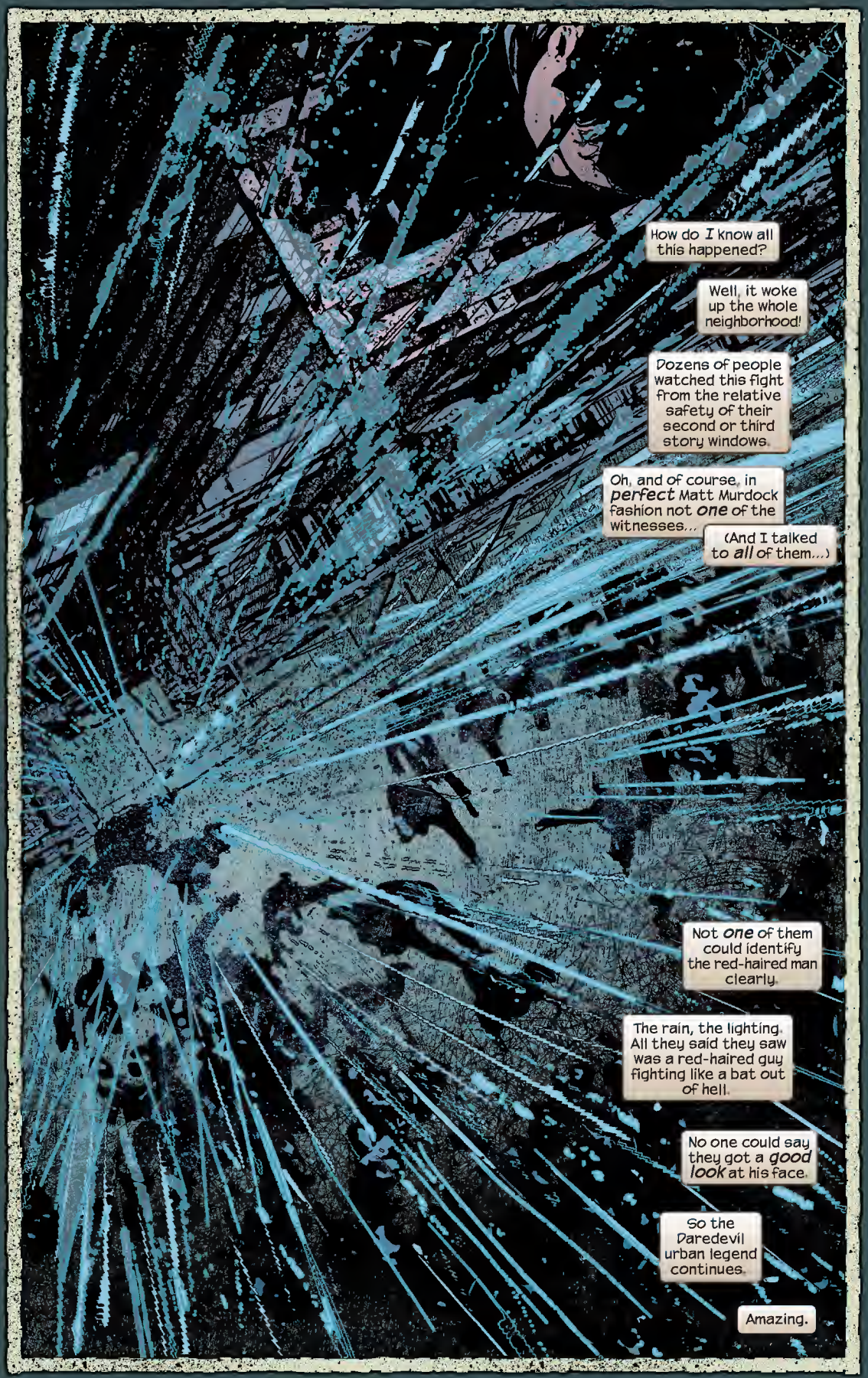

Just rape and murder *everyone* he knows, including me...
Burn Nelson and Murdock down to the ground...
...and that would be that.
And it *never* happened.
Never.
The only one who seemed to know that wouldn't happen was Matt.
I mean, did he "know" know?
Or was he just *hoping?* He sure *acted* like he knew.
You know there's this rumor, and this is funny in a way, but...
There's a rumor that Matt went and "took care" of all of his rogue's gallery the week he declared himself Kingpin of Hell's Kitchen.
The rumor is that Matt quietly *"removed"* them from the picture.
If you get my meaning.
It didn't happen. Of course it didn't.
But a lot of people do think it did.
A lot of people do.
People--they just can't figure out why these idiots haven't taken *advantage* of this once in a lifetime situation... of this big super hero being *out* there in the open.
But, and this is the thing, Matt--Matt isn't Spider-Man.
His relationship to the garbage and the street, and, I don't know, the shadows.
Matt's an entirely different type of vigilante. Always has been.
They really do fear him.
Anyway, *all* these things I imagined happening to Matt--
But...
I would *never*, in a million *years,* have been able to string together the events that ended up with Murdock declaring himself the Kingpin.
Never. Couldn't do it.
But it's been a year. It happened.
A year.
And I guess that's how long it took for *someone* to get it together enough to take a swing at Matt.
For someone to make a serious play for "The Kitchen."

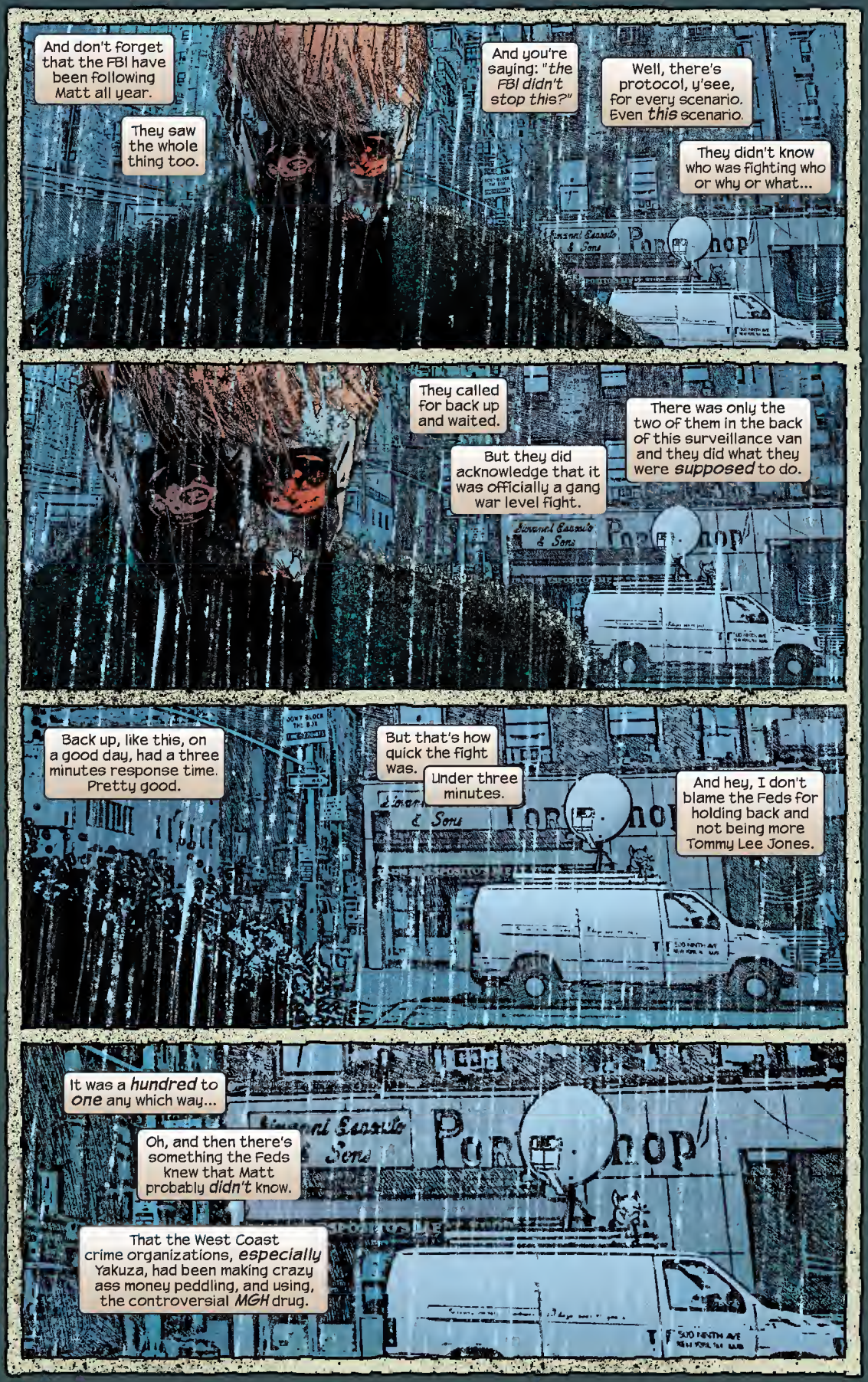

Yesterday...
Not two blocks from his house.
Matt faced a hundred, unnamed, silent opponents.
And that's how it is, really, when someone comes to kill you...
They don't announce their *name* and their purpose.
They don't take a moment to fill you in on *why* exactly they are about to kill you.
(Well, the idiots in the costumes do...)
But that's why they are in the costumes to begin with... they want your attention. They want you to *notice* them.
But when someone *really* wants to kill you--really wants to end your life...
They just show up and *do* it.

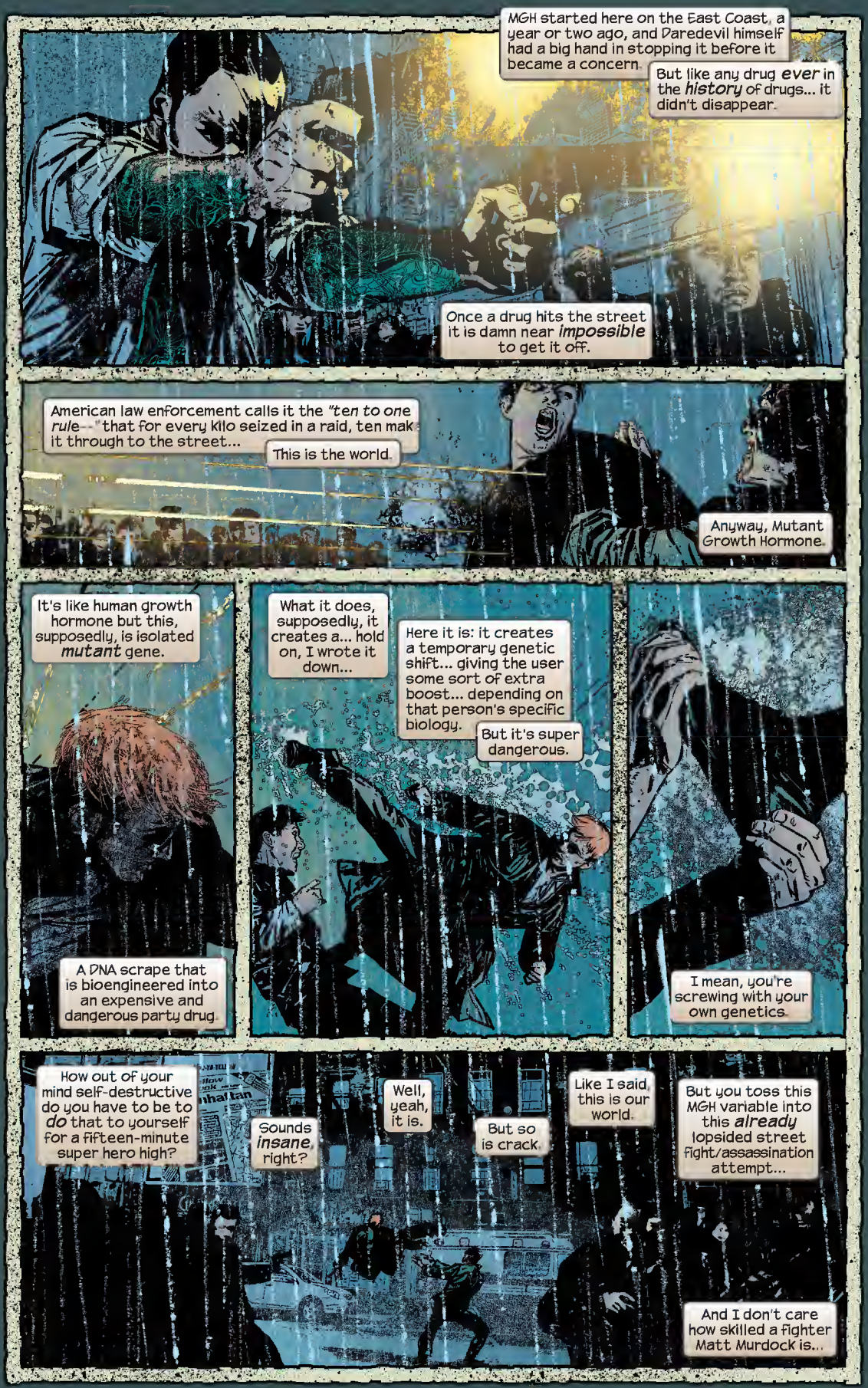

At least in theory.

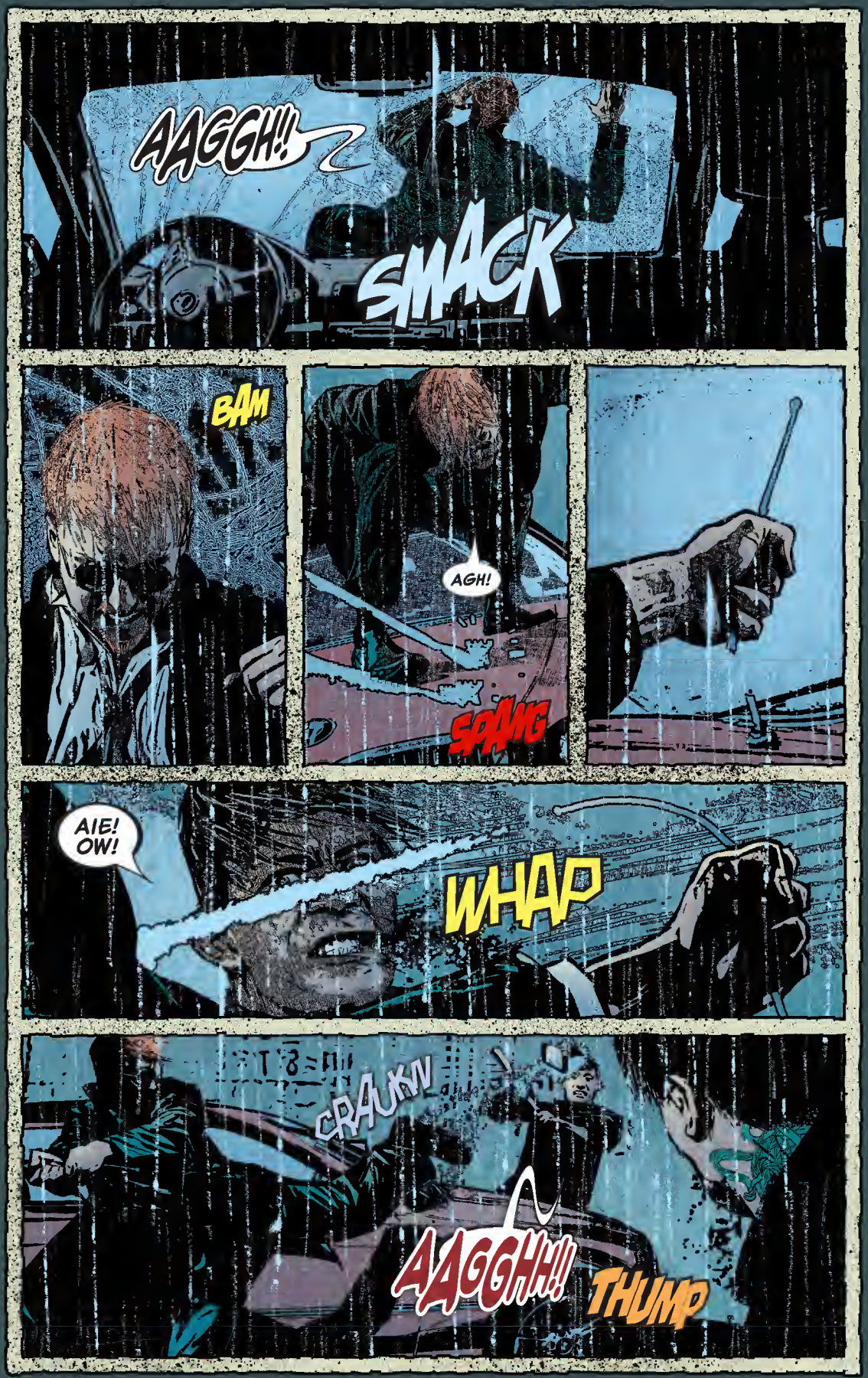

SMACK
SMACK
SMACK
BAM
SMACK
AARRGGH!!
SWAAAP
BAM
BAM
SPAK
SPAK


So, yeah, normally there would be no way for Matt to know what was going on...
But with Matt's enhanced senses being all amped up the way they are I bet he knew exactly who he was fighting and why.
Matt's heightened senses...
Did he smell them? Can he smell the, I don't know, the ink in their tattoos?
Can he feel some kind of change in the wind when it blows through a hand with a missing pinky?
Maybe it's the type of deodorant or styling gel, the make of weapon... I don't know...
It's that fourth dimensional world of super powers that always screws with my head...
It's just not how my brain works.
But Matt probably knew before he raised his hand to defend himself and his city.
The Yakuza were here for The Kitchen.
The Japanese underworld was there to take him out.

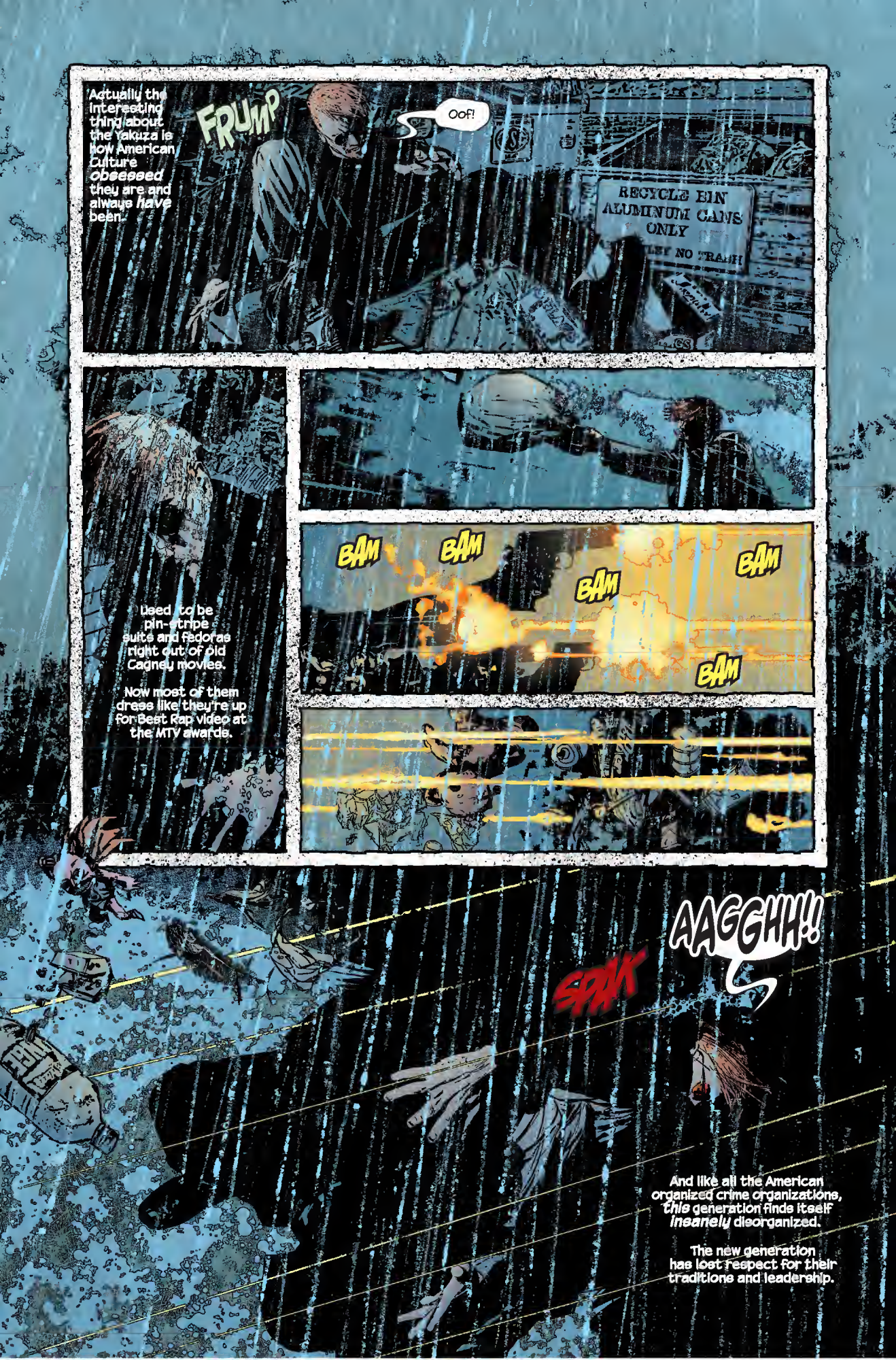

How do I know all this happened?
Well, it woke up the whole neighborhood!
Dozens of people watched this fight from the relative safety of their second or third story windows.
Oh, and of course, in perfect Matt Murdock fashion not one of the witnesses...
(And I talked to all of them...)
Not one of them could identify the red-haired man clearly.
The rain, the lighting. All they said they saw was a red-haired guy fighting like a bat out of hell.
No one could say they got a good look at his face.
So the Daredevil urban legend continues.
Amazing.

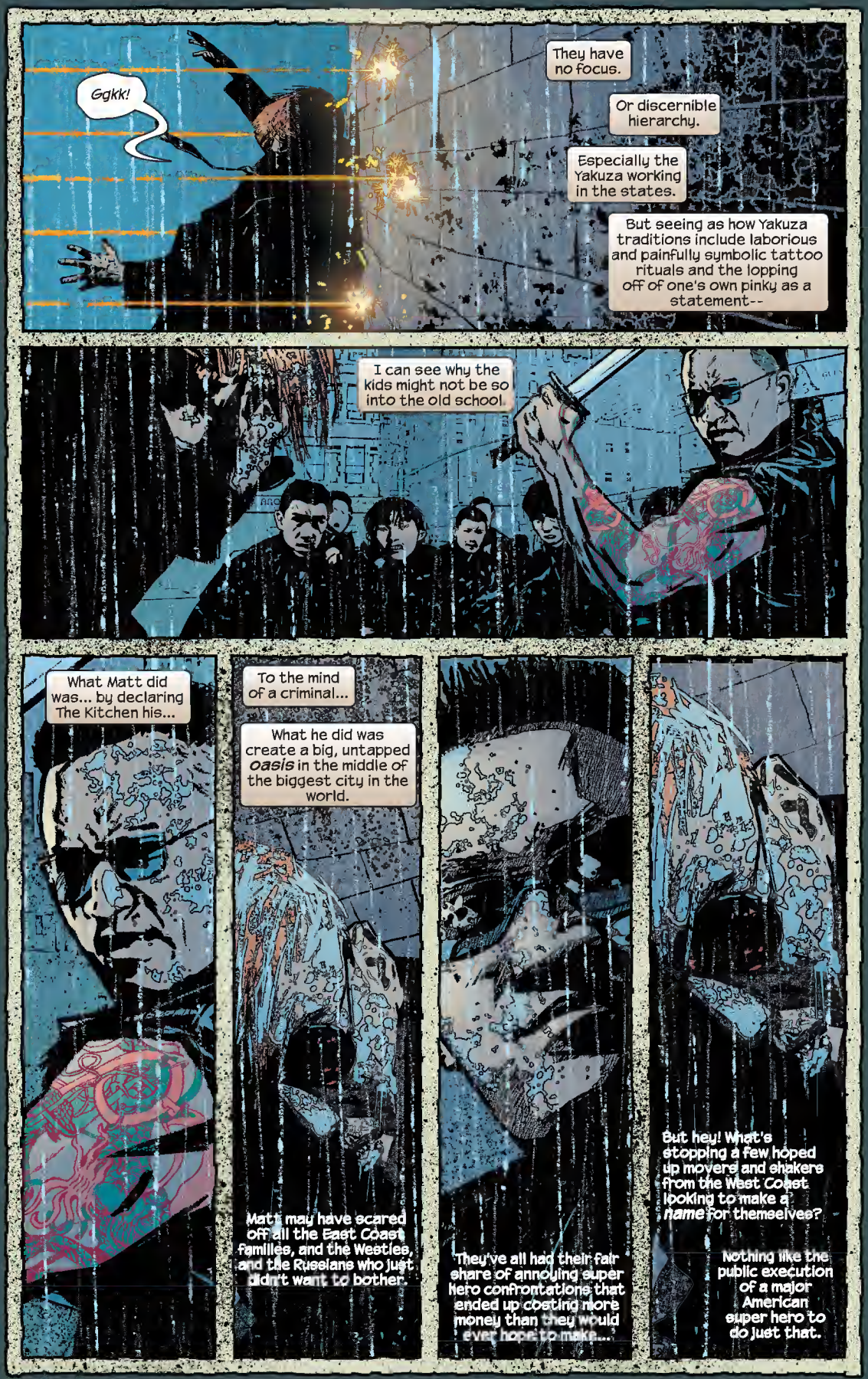

And don't forget that the FBI have been following Matt all year.
They saw the whole thing too.
And you're saying: "the FBI didn't stop this?"
Well, there's protocol, y'see, for every scenario. Even this scenario.
They didn't know who was fighting who or why or what...
They called for back up and waited.
But they did acknowledge that it was officially a gang war level fight.
There was only the two of them in the back of this surveillance van and they did what they were supposed to do.
Back up, like this, on a good day, had a three minutes response time. Pretty good.
But that's how quick the fight was.
Under three minutes.
And hey, I don't blame the Feds for holding back and not being more Tommy Lee Jones.
It was a hundred to one any which way...
Oh, and then there's something the Feds knew that Matt probably didn't know.
That the West Coast crime organizations, especially Yakuza, had been making crazy ass money peddling, and using, the controversial MGH drug.


MGH started here on the East Coast, a year or two ago, and Daredevil himself had a big hand in stopping it before it became a concern.
But like any drug ever in the history of drugs... it didn't disappear.
Once a drug hits the street it is damn near impossible to get it off.
American law enforcement calls it the "ten to one rule--" that for every kilo seized in a raid, ten mak it through to the street...
This is the world.
Anyway, Mutant Growth Hormone.
It's like human growth hormone but this, supposedly, is isolated mutant gene.
A DNA scrape that is bioengineered into an expensive and dangerous party drug.
What it does, supposedly, it creates a... hold on, I wrote it down...
Here it is: it creates a temporary genetic shift... giving the user some sort of extra boost... depending on that person's specific biology.
But it's super dangerous.
I mean, you're screwing with your own genetics.
How out of your mind self-destructive do you have to be to do that to yourself for a fifteen-minute super hero high?
Sounds insane, right?
Well, yeah, it is.
But so is crack.
Like I said, this is our world.
But you toss this MGH variable into this already lopsided street fight/assassination attempt...
And I don't care how skilled a fighter Matt Murdock is...


AAGGH!!
SMACK
BAM
AGH!
SPANG
AIE! OW!
WHAP
CRAUKW
AAGGHH!!
THUMP


The Yakuza, by the way, are real.
I'm not saying that to condescend to you or anything.
AARRGHH!!!
I was just surprised that when going over the facts of this story with my editors back in my newsroom...
With college-educated people of the world...
I was surprised how many people thought the Yakuza was some *made-up* movie thing.
No. They are real.
Started back in the eighteen hundreds, just a bunch of travelling gamblers with swords--
Fast forward to *this* century and it's the all controlling, multi-billion dollar, Japanese mafia empire.
And for a good thirty years at *least*, the Yakuza have trickled themselves into *our* major cities and--
Actually they're a lot like America mafia.
Using legitimate business cover to house their prostitution, drugs, gambling, money laundering...
Always looking for new territories.
SLKCEE

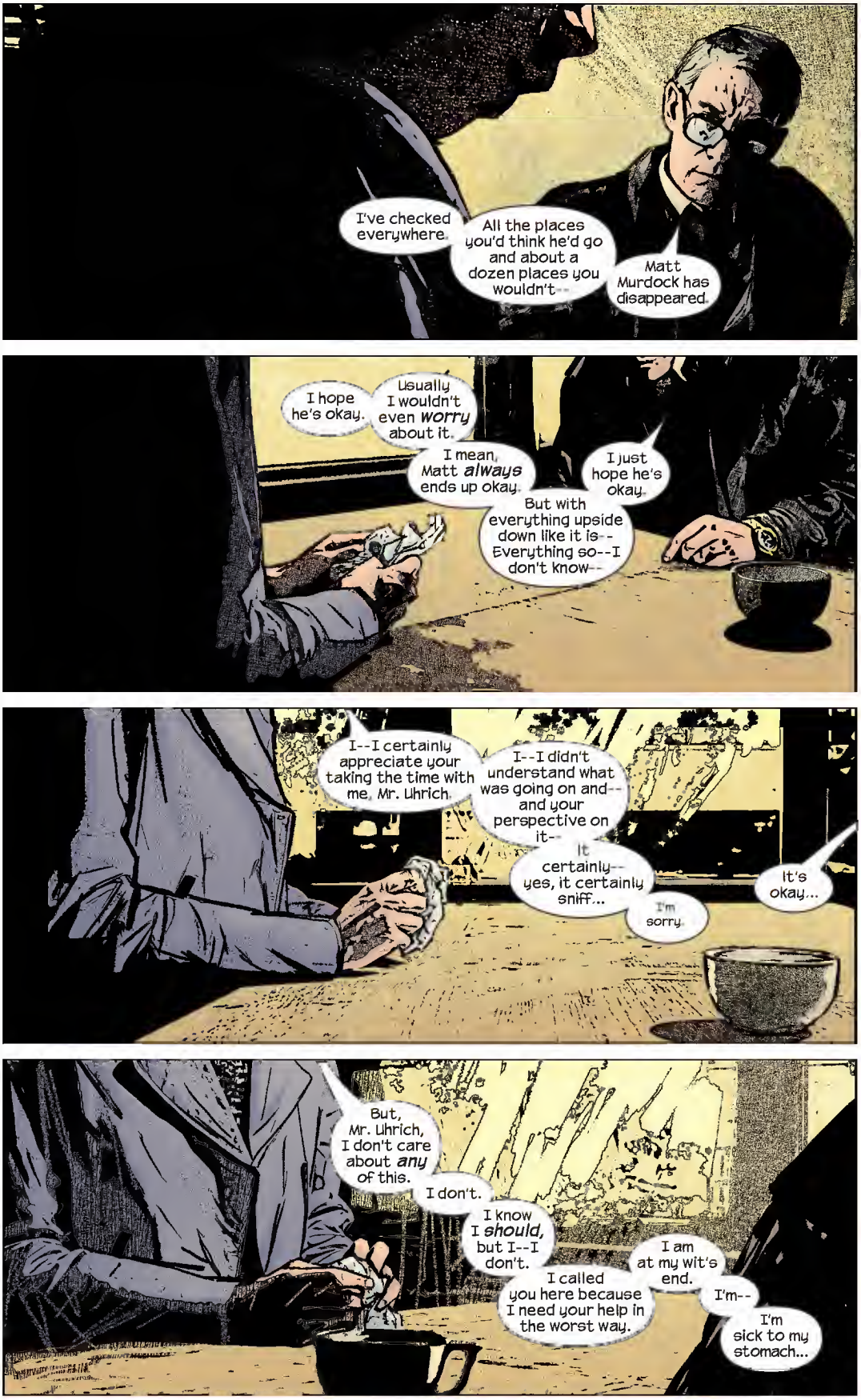

Actually the interesting thing about the Yakuza is how American culture *obsessed* they are and always *have* been.
FRUMP
Oof!
RECYCLE BIN
ALUMINUM CANS
ONLY
Used to be pin-stripe suits and fedoras right out of old Cagney movies.
Now most of them dress like they're up for Best Rap video at the MTV awards.
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
SPAK
AAGGHH!!
And like all the American organized crime organizations, *this* generation finds itself *insanely* disorganized.
The new generation has lost respect for their traditions and leadership.


Ggkk!
They have no focus.
Or discernible hierarchy.
Especially the Yakuza working in the states.
But seeing as how Yakuza traditions include laborious and painfully symbolic tattoo rituals and the lopping off of one's own pinky as a statement--
I can see why the kids might not be so into the old school.
What Matt did was... by declaring The Kitchen his...
To the mind of a criminal...
What he did was create a big, untapped *oasis* in the middle of the biggest city in the world.
Matt may have scared off all the East Coast families, and the Westies, and the Russians who just didn't want to bother.
They've all had their fair share of annoying super hero confrontations that ended up costing more money than they would ever hope to make...
But hey! What's stopping a few hoped up movers and shakers from the West Coast looking to make a *name* for themselves?
Nothing like the public execution of a major American super hero to do just that.


HAAAII!


FBI!! DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND HIT THE GROUND!!
NOW!!
DON'T MOVE!!
SHERIFF DEPT
Down now!!
Drop your weapon or I will shoot you!!
DOWN!
Feds got the collar!
NYPD
KHUUAAGG!!
That's right, on your knees!
Drop your weapon or I will shoot you!!
DOWN!
DOWN!


FBI! FBI!!
The hell is in the air tonight, huh?
Murdock! Where's Murdock?
Who?
I'm special Agent Driver. I was--Murdock! Its okay!
NYPD
I don't--
What exactly is the situation here, Agent Driver?
Matt Murdock?
Where is he?
He was right here.
He was-- he took out all these guys.
Yeah. Murdock!!
Murdock!!
He was right here...


I've checked everywhere.
All the places you'd think he'd go and about a dozen places you wouldn't--
Matt Murdock has disappeared.
I hope he's okay.
Usually I wouldn't even worry about it.
I mean, Matt always ends up okay.
I just hope he's okay.
But with everything upside down like it is--Everything so--I don't know--
I--I certainly appreciate your taking the time with me, Mr. Uhrich.
I--I didn't understand what was going on and--and your perspective on it--
It certainly--yes, it certainly sniff...
I'm sorry.
It's okay...
But, Mr. Uhrich, I don't care about any of this.
I don't.
I know I should, but I--I don't.
I called you here because I need your help in the worst way.
I am at my wit's end.
I'm--
I'm sick to my stomach...


I just need you to help me find my husband.
Please, help me find Matthew.

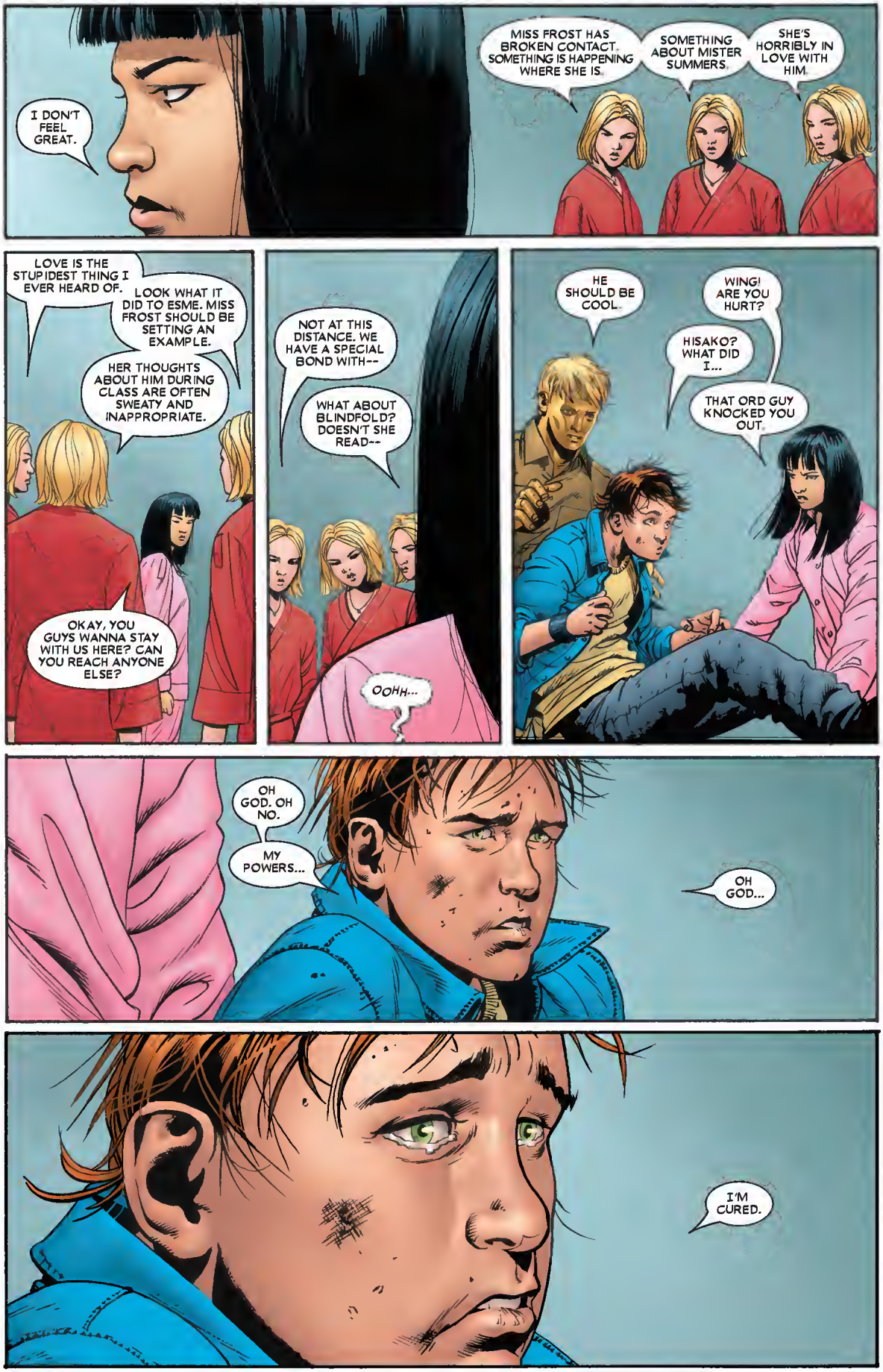

Husband.


MARVEL
PSR 5
WHEDON CASSADAY
ASTONISHING
X-MEN

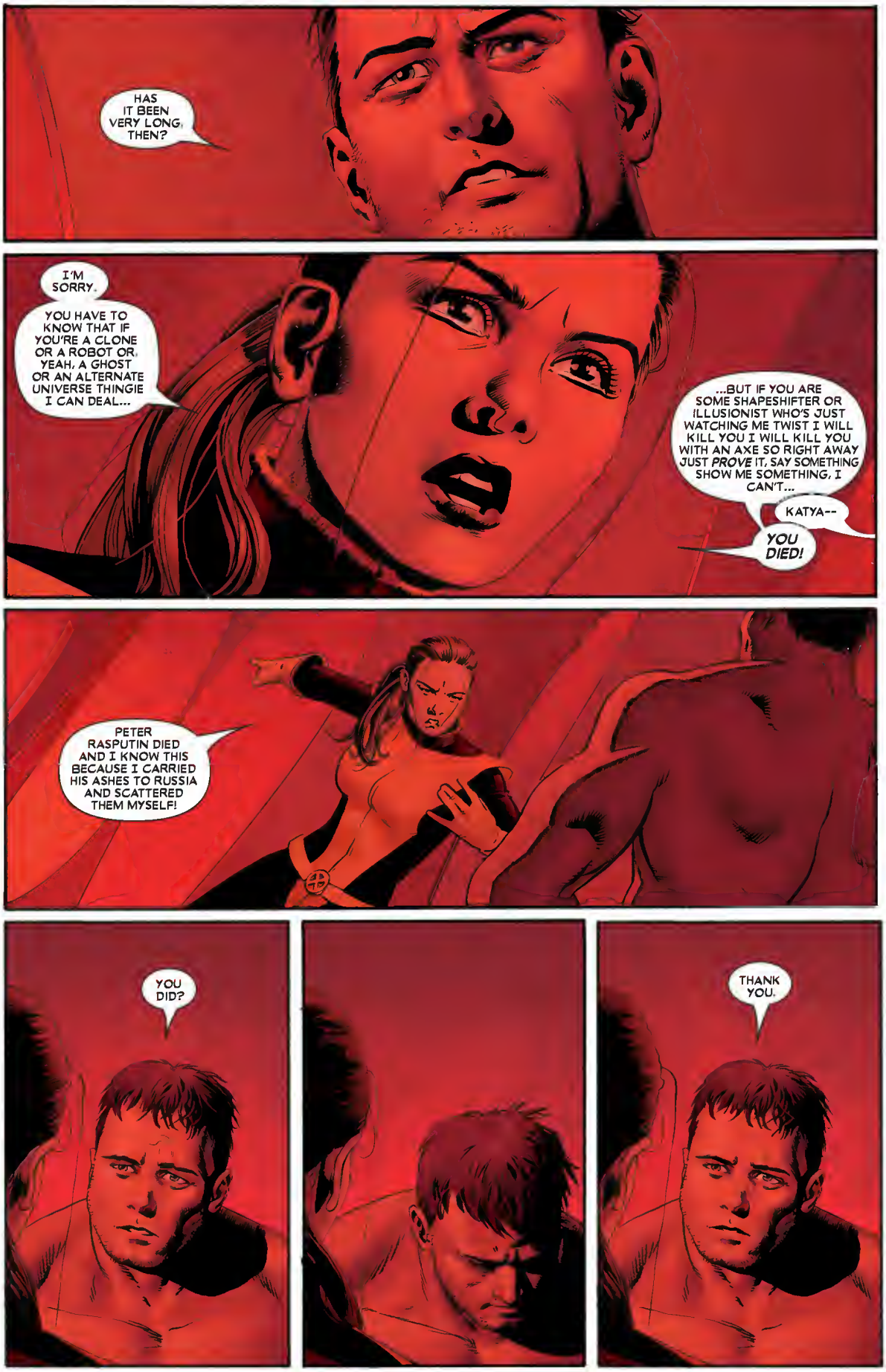

X-MEN...
SOUND OFF...
ICEMAN, SOUNDING OFF!
FIREMAN, SOUNDING OFF!
CLOTHING-MAN, SOUNDING OFF!
ABILITY-TO-HOP-MAN, HERE!
WAIT A MINUTE...
...AREN'T YOU ALL THE SAME PERSON?
OH, SCOTT.
OH, DARLING...
...WHAT A FAILURE YOU ARE.


NO, NO, I GOT THIS WIRED. I'M PUTTING IN STORM WINDOWS...
OH, SERIOUSLY...
DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY?
STOP FAKING IT, SCOTT. I DID.
JEAN... PLEASE... JUST TELL ME...
DO YOU AT LEAST LIKE THE COSTUMES?
STAY AWAKE, SCOTT!
HE'S BLEEDING OUT. HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION, NOW.


REALLY.
I GUESS I'M GLAD I'M NOT *HIM*, THEN.
"IS HE GOING TO DIE?"
THESE ARE BAD BREAKS, BUT I'M WORKING IT. YOUR ARMOR'S NOT EXACTLY FLUFFY, HISAKO.
IT WAS ALL SO FAST...
IF YOU HADN'T CAUGHT HIM HE'D'VE BEEN A FRUIT SMOOTHIE, FALLING FROM THAT HEIGHT. YOU DID GREAT.


I DON'T FEEL GREAT.
MISS FROST HAS BROKEN CONTACT. SOMETHING IS HAPPENING WHERE SHE IS.
SOMETHING ABOUT MISTER SUMMERS.
SHE'S HORRIBLY IN LOVE WITH HIM.
LOVE IS THE STUPIDEST THING I EVER HEARD OF.
LOOK WHAT IT DID TO ESME. MISS FROST SHOULD BE SETTING AN EXAMPLE.
HER THOUGHTS ABOUT HIM DURING CLASS ARE OFTEN SWEATY AND INAPPROPRIATE.
OKAY, YOU GUYS WANNA STAY WITH US HERE? CAN YOU REACH ANYONE ELSE?
NOT AT THIS DISTANCE. WE HAVE A SPECIAL BOND WITH--
WHAT ABOUT BLINDFOLD? DOESN'T SHE READ--
OOHH...
HE SHOULD BE COOL.
WING! ARE YOU HURT?
HISAKO? WHAT DID I...
THAT ORD GUY KNOCKED YOU OUT.
OH GOD. OH NO.
MY POWERS...
OH GOD...
I'M CURED.

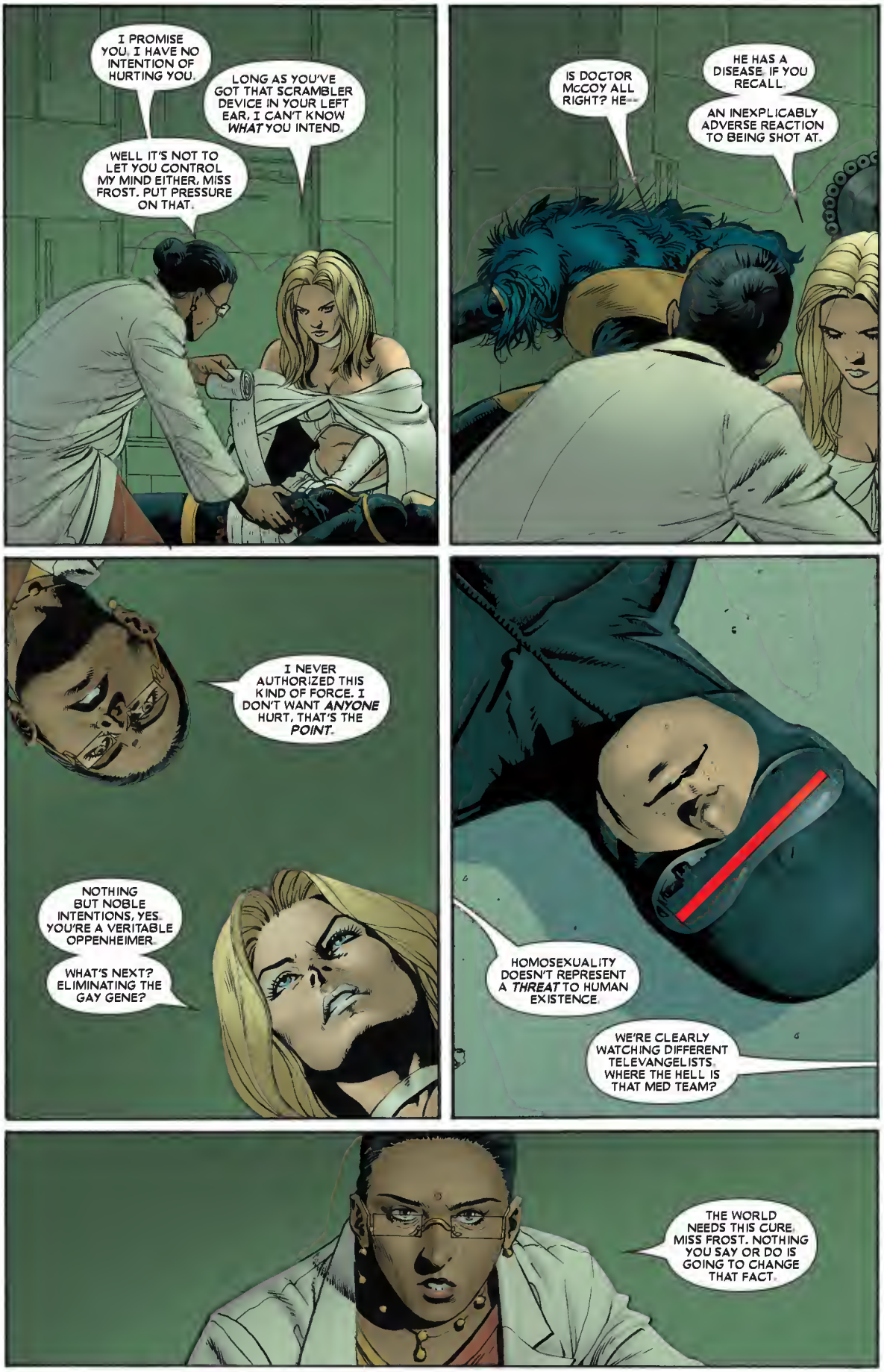

I'M GONNA NEED A MINUTE HERE.
BEFORE I CAN GET US OUT, I'M GONNA NEED TO REST.
IT'S HARD GETTING THROUGH THIS METAL. AND TAKING YOU ALONG... IT'S GONNA BE A LITTLE--
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.
WELL, YEAH.
I AM.


HAS IT BEEN VERY LONG, THEN?
I'M SORRY.
YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT IF YOU'RE A CLONE OR A ROBOT OR, YEAH, A GHOST OR AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE THINGIE I CAN DEAL...
...BUT IF YOU ARE SOME SHAPESHIFTER OR ILLUSIONIST WHO'S JUST WATCHING ME TWIST I WILL KILL YOU I WILL KILL YOU WITH AN AXE SO RIGHT AWAY JUST *PROVE* IT, SAY SOMETHING SHOW ME SOMETHING, I CAN'T...
KATYA--
YOU DIED!
PETER RASPUTIN DIED AND I KNOW THIS BECAUSE I CARRIED HIS ASHES TO RUSSIA AND SCATTERED THEM MYSELF!
YOU DID?
THANK YOU.

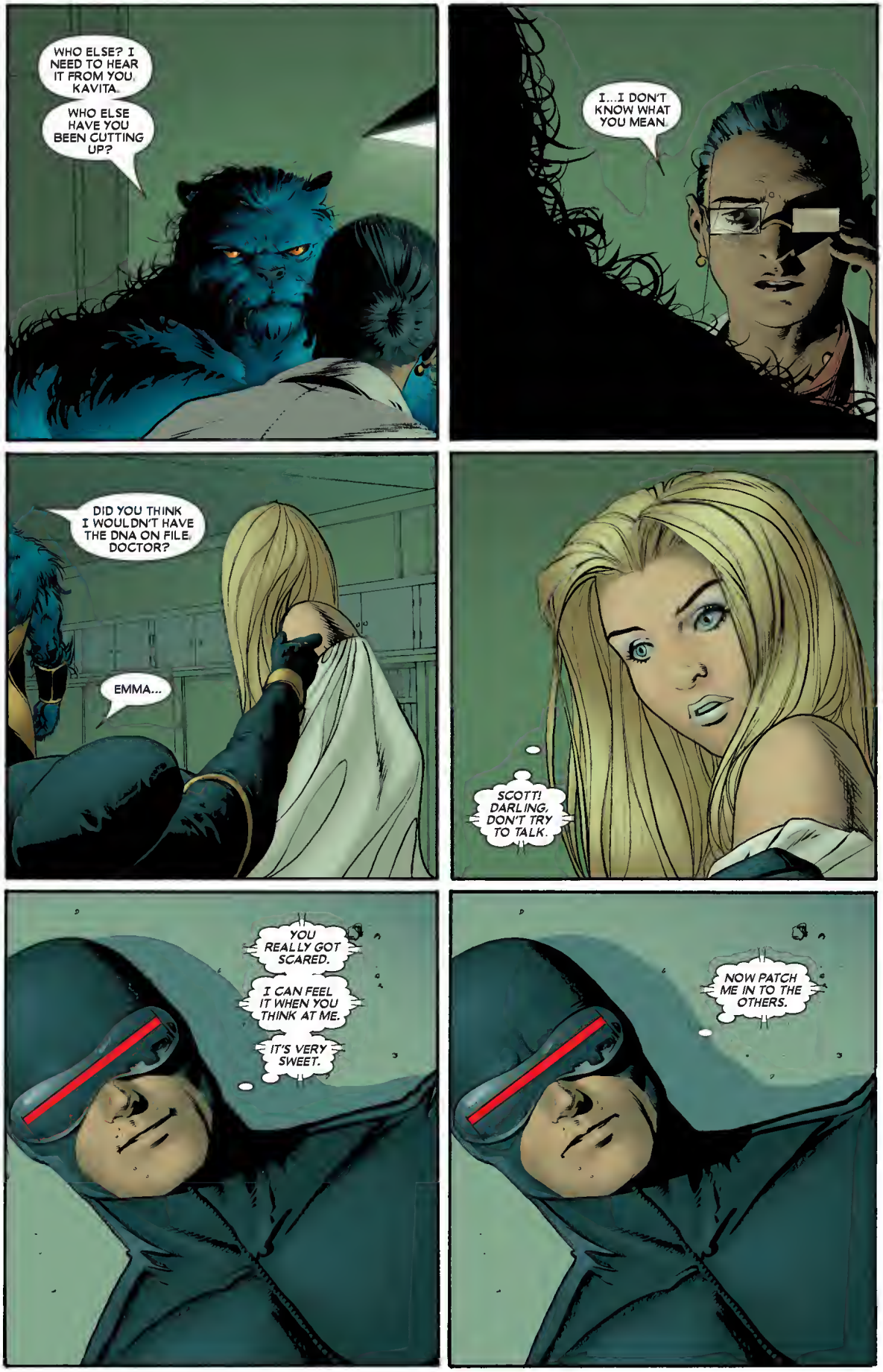

I'M SO SORRY.
YOU NEED MY HELP AND I'M...I FEEL SO WEAK--
THEY SWITCHED MY BODY WITH SOMEONE ELSE. I THINK. REVIVED ME AND, AND BROUGHT ME HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHOSE ASHES...
I AM NOT A TRICK.
I KNOW.
I MEAN... I THINK THAT I...
I KNOW.
I CAN FEEL YOUR HAND. AND I BECOME CERTAIN...
I AM ALSO NOT A GHOST.
OKAY.
SO, RESCUE...
DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER WAY OUT BESIDES UP? I DON'T THINK THESE GUYS CAME DOWN THROUGH A HUNDRED FEET OF METAL. DO YOU--
NO.


I ONLY KNOW THE ROOM.
"ALWAYS DARK INSIDE. COLD.
"THEY KEPT ME STRONG. HEALTHY...I POUNDED THE WALLS EVERY DAY, EVERY MINUTE, FOR YEARS...
"WAS IT YEARS...?"
WHY DID THEY--
TESTS. THEY DID TESTS.
EVERY FEW DAYS THE GAS WOULD COME, AND I WOULD WAKE ON THE TABLE. THEY WOULD CUT AT ME. INJECT... THINGS...ALL I SAW WERE THEIR MASKS.
AND *HIM*. THE ONE WHO BROUGHT ME BACK.
CONGRATULATIONS, PETER RASPUTIN. YOUR DEATH HAS SAVED MUTANTKIND FROM THE LEGACY VIRUS.
AND YOU WILL PAY FOR THAT WITH YOUR LIFE.


IS THAT TRUE? THE LEGACY VIRUS--
GONE. YOU *DID* SAVE US.
FROM *THAT*.
WHAT IS THIS? LET ME THROUGH!
THIS IS A HOSTILE ZONE, DOCTOR--IS YOUR SCRAMBLER--
--IT'S ON! NOW MOVE.
YOU FIRED ON THEM?
MAN. THE LADY IS SHARP...
I NEED TO GET THIS MAN HOME.
ONE OF YOU CALL IN OUR MED TEAM.
A BAND-AID'S GONNA DO SWEET F.A., DOCTOR.
WE HAVE QUALIFIED SURGEONS NOT TWO BUILDINGS DOWN--
AND WE HAVE A *HEALER* AT HOME.


I PROMISE YOU, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HURTING YOU.
WELL IT'S NOT TO LET YOU CONTROL MY MIND EITHER, MISS FROST. PUT PRESSURE ON THAT.
LONG AS YOU'VE GOT THAT SCRAMBLER DEVICE IN YOUR LEFT EAR, I CAN'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU INTEND.
IS DOCTOR McCOY ALL RIGHT? HE--
HE HAS A DISEASE. IF YOU RECALL.
AN INEXPLICABLY ADVERSE REACTION TO BEING SHOT AT.
I NEVER AUTHORIZED THIS KIND OF FORCE. I DON'T WANT *ANYONE* HURT, THAT'S THE *POINT*.
NOTHING BUT NOBLE INTENTIONS, YES. YOU'RE A VERITABLE OPPENHEIMER.
WHAT'S NEXT? ELIMINATING THE GAY GENE?
HOMOSEXUALITY DOESN'T REPRESENT A *THREAT* TO HUMAN EXISTENCE.
WE'RE CLEARLY WATCHING DIFFERENT TELEVANGELISTS. WHERE THE HELL IS THAT MED TEAM?
THE WORLD NEEDS THIS CURE, MISS FROST. NOTHING YOU SAY OR DO IS GOING TO CHANGE THAT FACT.


HHH!
DOWN!
PUT HER DOWN!
DO IT NOW!
DID *SHE* NEED IT?
DID THIS GIRL NEED YOUR CURE?
LET HER GO!
HANK...
THIS GIRL WAS DEAD... SHE KILLED HERSELF...


WHO ELSE? I NEED TO HEAR IT FROM YOU, KAVITA.
WHO ELSE HAVE YOU BEEN CUTTING UP?
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T HAVE THE DNA ON FILE, DOCTOR?
EMMA...
SCOTT! DARLING, DON'T TRY TO TALK.
YOU REALLY GOT SCARED.
I CAN FEEL IT WHEN YOU THINK AT ME.
IT'S VERY SWEET.
NOW PATCH ME IN TO THE OTHERS.


HANK, YOU KNOW THE ONLY WAY TO HELP FURTHER RESEARCH IS TO WORK ON THE DEAD. I'M TRYING TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE THIS GIRL WOULD NEVER *THINK* OF TAKING HER OWN LIFE! BUT WHILE SHE HAS--
I GOTCHYA. GOOD.
I-- WHAT?
I'M HEALED ENOUGH. JUST WAITING ON YOU, SLOWPOKE.
THEN LET'S SHOW THESE BATTLEBOT REJECTS WHO THEY'RE DEALING WITH.
SSHKOWWW!


THE DOCTOR! MUTANT TARGETS ONLY!
THIS BIG ENOUGH FOR YA?
LOGAN, YOU NEED TO--
EMMA ALREADY GAVE ME MY MARCHING ORDERS A MINUTE AGO.
TWO WORDS.
LEFT EAR.


SCRAMBLERS DEACTIVATED. THEN?
WELL HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS.
YOU FEEL NO PAIN.
YOU WILL GO STRAIGHT TO A HOSPITAL. REMEMBER NOTHING OF THIS PLACE.
AND EVERY TIME YOU HEAR THE WORDS "PARSLEY", "INTRACTABLE" OR "LONGITUDE", YOU WILL VOMIT UNCONTROLLABLY FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.
NICE WORK, X-MEN.
MY GIRLFRIEND IS VERY WEIRD


I'M NOT ABOUT TO ARGUE THAT POINT.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
EMMA TAKES SCOTT BACK TO THE INSTITUTE. HANK AND ME FIND KITTY...
CRACK
...AND THEN WE BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND.
FIRST OFF, SCOTT AND I GIVE THE ORDERS, LOGAN.
SECOND. GOOD PLAN.
IT WON'T HELP.
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN SAMPLES AND ALL MY DATA TO HUNDREDS OF TEAMS AROUND THE WORLD.
"HOPE" CAN'T BE CRUSHED NOW. NOT EVEN BY YOU.
NICE BLUFF.
BUT I CALL.


AND TO THINK... I WENT LOOKING FOR YOU.
MISS FROST, THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE ON EARTH THIS BLADE CANNOT CUT THROUGH.
GOOD TO KNOW.


ASIDE, WOMAN!
PLAN?
MAN'S GOT EYEBALLS...
AND IF HE'S A MAN BY *OUR* DEFINITION, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY SOFT--
TOO SCARED FOR STRATAGEMS, X-MEN?

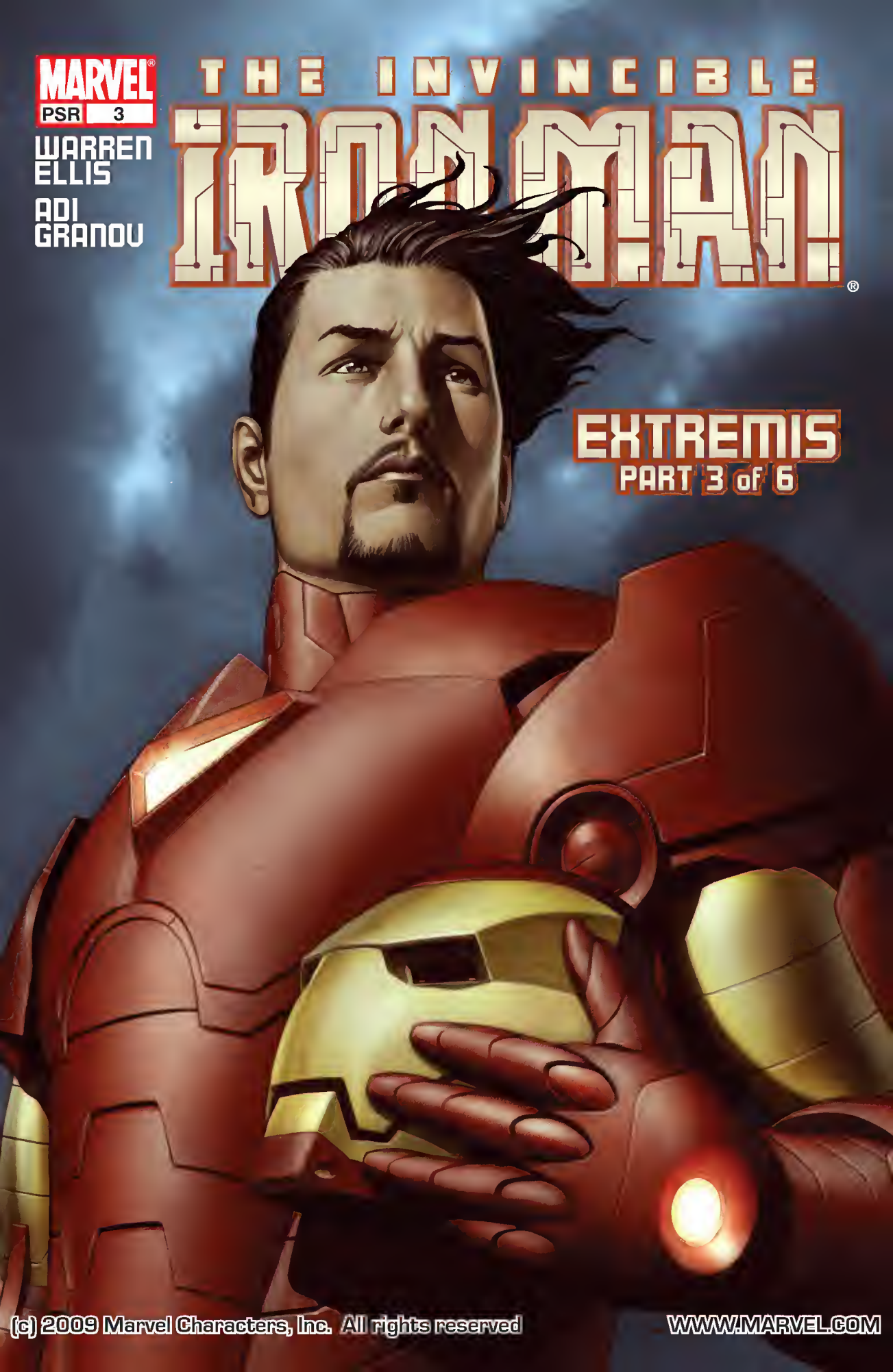

THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME WE FINISHED THIS.


OKAY.
YEAH.
WHY DON'T WE DO THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL LOOKING...
OH NO.
IS THAT DRAGON THING BEHIND ME?
GRRNNNCH!


YOU!
IT MATTERS *NOTHING* THAT YOU'VE ESCAPED!
DO YOU THINK BECAUSE YOU ARE MADE OF MERE STEEL--
--THAT YOU CAN STAND AGAINST ME?
I AM NOT MADE OF STEEL.
RAGE.


I...
THOP!
GRUNK!
...AM MADE...
...OF RAGE!
WHOOM!
FINISH IT, PETE.
SORRY...

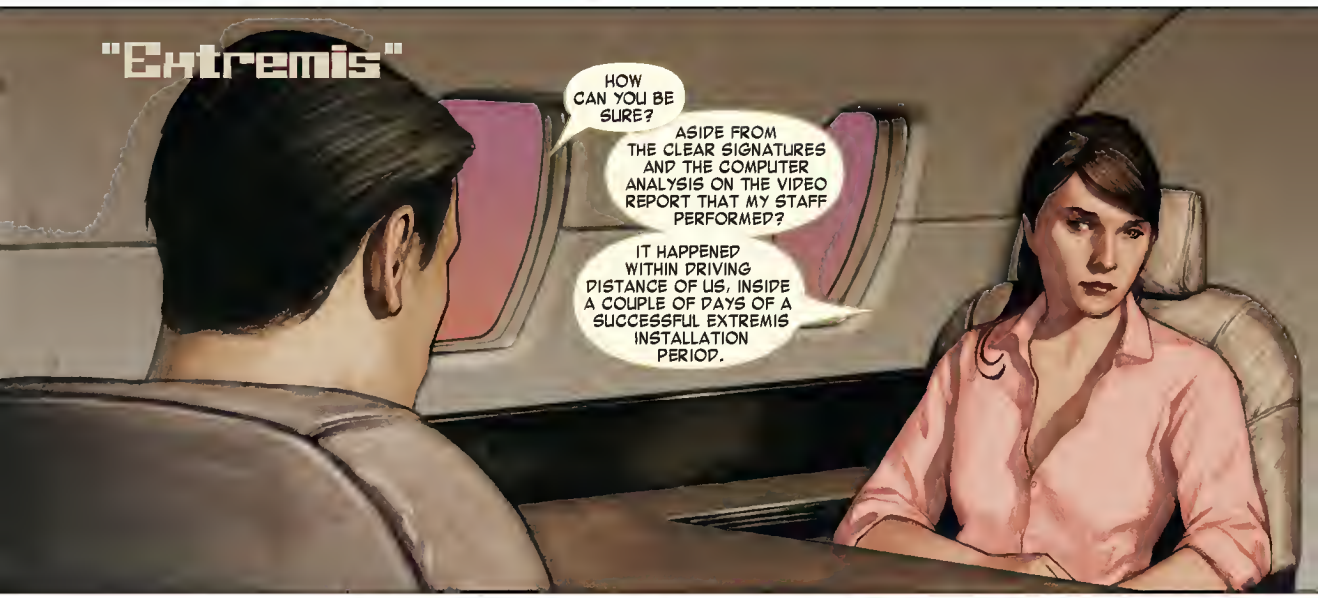

...YOU AIN'T GONNA WIN THIS DAY.



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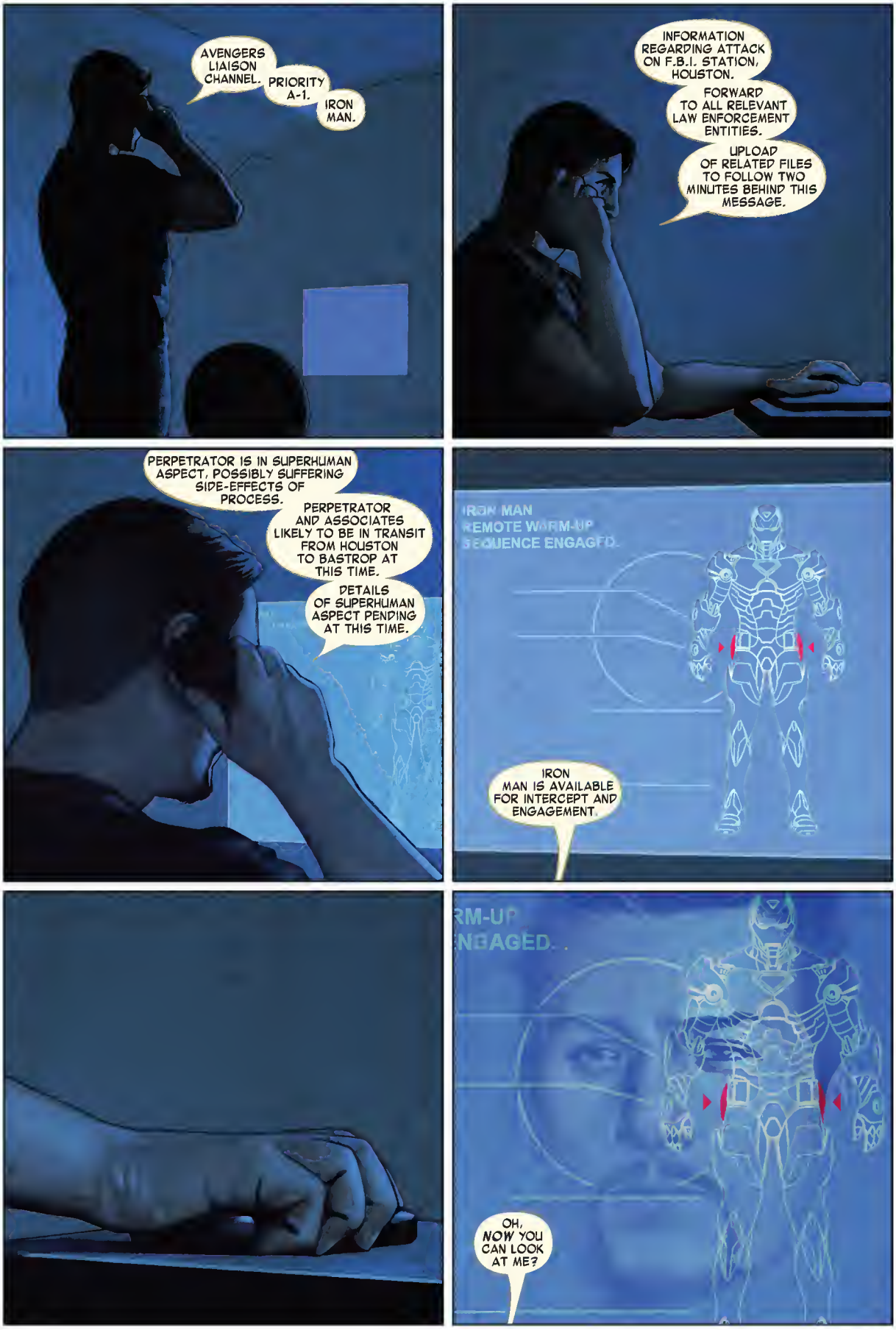


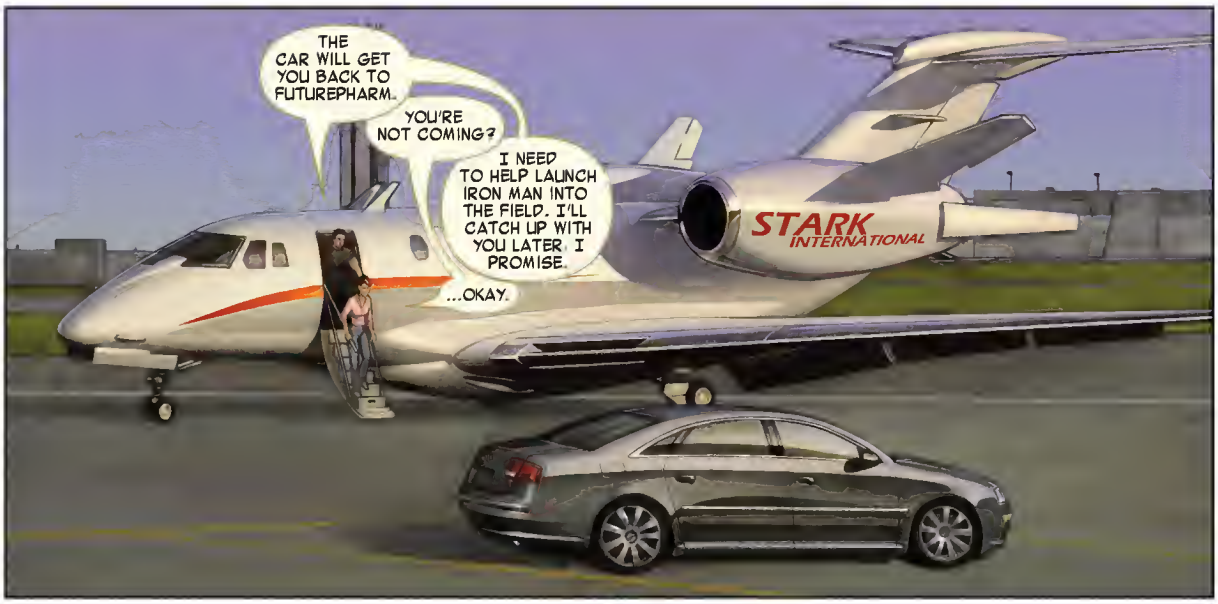
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HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING TO DRINK?
NO.
DAMN.
OKAY. EXTREMIS IS A SUPER-SOLDIER SOLUTION.
"IT'S A BIO-ELECTRONICS PACKAGE, FITTED INTO A FEW BILLION GRAPHIC NANOTUBES AND SUSPENDED IN A CARRIER FLUID.
"A MAGIC BULLET, LIKE THE ORIGINAL SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM--ALL IN A SINGLE INJECTION.
"IT HACKS THE BODY'S REPAIR CENTER--THE PART OF THE BRAIN THAT KEEPS A COMPLETE BLUEPRINT OF THE HUMAN BODY.
"WHEN WE'RE INJURED, WE REFER TO THAT AREA OF THE BRAIN IN ORDER TO HEAL PROPERLY.
"EXTREMIS REWRITES THE REPAIR CENTER.
"IN THE FIRST STAGE, THE ENTIRE BODY ESSENTIALLY BECOMES AN OPEN WOUND.
"THE NORMAL HUMAN BLUEPRINT IS BEING REPLACED WITH THE EXTREMIS BLUEPRINT, YOU SEE?
"THE BRAIN IS BEING TOLD THAT THE BODY IS WRONG.
EXTREMIS PROTOCOL DICTATES THAT THE SUBJECT BE PUT ON LIFE SUPPORT AND INTRAVENOUSLY FED NUTRIENTS AT THIS POINT.
"FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS, THE SUBJECT REMAINS UNCONSCIOUS WITHIN A COCOON OF SCABS."
IT'S PRETTY GROSS, AS YOU CAN IMAGINE.
EXTREMIS USES THE NUTRIENTS AND BODY MASS TO BUILD NEW ORGANS. BETTER ONES.
WE LOADED IN EVERYTHING WE COULD THINK OF.
THE HYPOTHETICAL WE WERE GIVEN WAS TO BUILD A THREE-MAN TEAM WHO COULD TAKE FALLUJAH ON THEIR OWN.


AND THIS IS WHAT WAS STOLEN FROM FUTUREPHARM? A SUPER-SOLDIER BIOLOGICAL COMPILER?
AND SOMEONE TOOK IT WITHOUT YOUR PROTOCOL, SURVIVED, AND IS NOW...
...WHAT A MESS.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HAND DETAILS OF THE PROCESS TO THE AUTHORITIES.
I'VE GOT SOME PULL HERE AND THERE. SO WE SHOULD--
--EXCUSE ME.
BRZZT BRZZT
TONY STARK.
YOU DID? EXCELLENT. I'M ON THE PLANE, SO SEND--
--OKAY. I'M LISTENING. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?
OH, GOD. YEAH. YEAH.
NO, GOOD JOB. I OWE YOU DINNER. THAT GREEK PLACE WITH THE BELLY DANCER YOU LIKE.
SEND IT ALL OVER. NICE WORK.
MY GUY HACKED YOUR DEAD BOSS'S FILES.
HE GAVE EXTREMIS TO A GROUP OF MILITIAMEN LOCAL TO YOU. DOMESTIC TERRORISTS.
I HAVE TO MAKE SOME CALLS.


AVENGERS LIAISON CHANNEL.
PRIORITY A-1.
IRON MAN.
INFORMATION REGARDING ATTACK ON F.B.I. STATION, HOUSTON.
FORWARD TO ALL RELEVANT LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITIES.
UPLOAD OF RELATED FILES TO FOLLOW TWO MINUTES BEHIND THIS MESSAGE.
PERPETRATOR IS IN SUPERHUMAN ASPECT, POSSIBLY SUFFERING SIDE-EFFECTS OF PROCESS.
PERPETRATOR AND ASSOCIATES LIKELY TO BE IN TRANSIT FROM HOUSTON TO BASTROP AT THIS TIME.
DETAILS OF SUPERHUMAN ASPECT PENDING AT THIS TIME.
IRON MAN
REMOTE WARM-UP
SEQUENCE ENGAGED.
IRON MAN IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERCEPT AND ENGAGEMENT.
RM-UP
NGAGED.
OH, NOW YOU CAN LOOK AT ME?


THE CAR WILL GET YOU BACK TO FUTUREPHARM.
YOU'RE NOT COMING?
I NEED TO HELP LAUNCH IRON MAN INTO THE FIELD. I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER. I PROMISE.
...OKAY.
STARK INTERNATIONAL




STARK INTERNATIONAL


IT'S IN THE HANGAR AS REQUESTED, MR. STARK.
TONY, PLEASE.
CAN I ASK--DID YOU REALLY NEED YOUR CAR THAT BADLY, SIR? I MEAN TONY.


I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET. IT'S A COMMAND AND CONTROL PACKAGE. I'M PUTTING IRON MAN INTO THE FIELD.
HE'S... HE'S NOT IN THAT CRATE, RIGHT?
THE PILOT OF IRON MAN IS NOT LIKE YOU AND ME. GO HOME.


I MUST BE CRAZY.
OKAY. FOR MY NEXT TRICK: SNEAKING OUT OF A HANGAR AND LAUNCHING WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING.
I TRY TO BUY THE MORE REMOTE HANGARS, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOME KID WITH A DIGITAL CAMERA.
USUALLY A STARK CAMERA.
NO. FOR MY *NEXT* TRICK: LOCKING THE DAMN DOOR SO NO ONE ACCIDENTALLY GETS TO SEE IRON MAN BUTT NAKED.




IT WAS A GODDAMN TRAP! A GOVERNMENT TRAP!
WHAT? A.T.F.?
THEY WERE WAITING FOR ME TO BUY THE GUNS! HELL, THEY WERE SELLING ME THE GUNS!


IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO GET OUT OF THERE!
AND THEN THEY FOLLOWED ME ON TO OUR PROPERTY--
DID YOU--
I THINK I KILLED ONE.

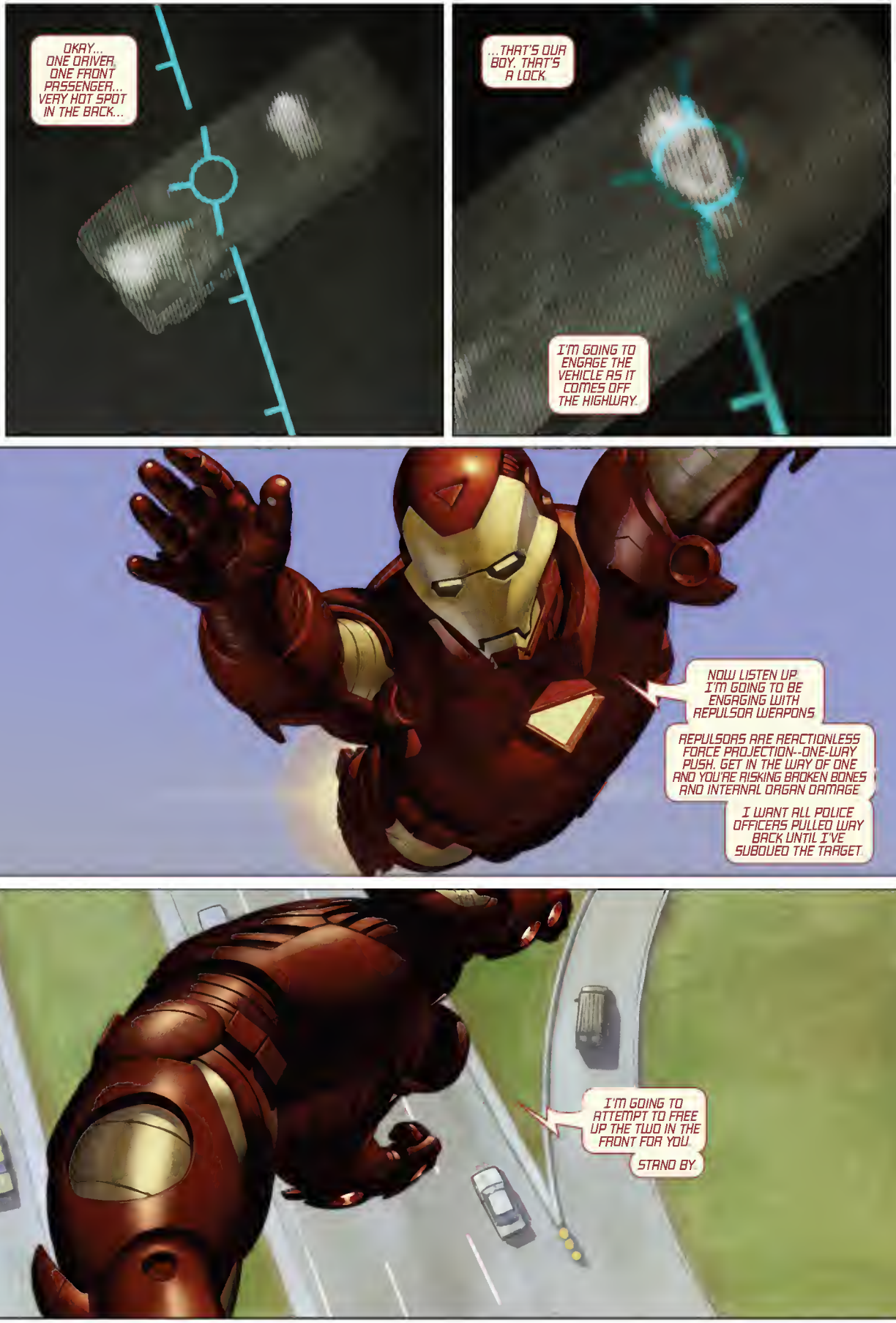

MR. MALLEN.
OH, GOD.
FEDS. BOUND TO BE.
JUST WAITING FOR THIS.


MR. MALLEN, WE'VE SURROUNDED YOUR PROPERTY.
SEE? OUR PROPERTY. THEY TRAP YOU. LIE TO YOU. TRESPASS... THIS AIN'T RIGHT, PA.
WE'RE FREE PEOPLE... THEY CAN'T JUST LIE TO US BECAUSE WE SCARE 'EM.


WHY DON'T YOU SHOVE IT RIGHT UP YOUR--




YOU OKAY, MALLEN?
YOU WERE MAKING SOME NOISES.
FINE.
JUST FINE.
I'M STREAMING YOU VIDEO FROM MY CAMERAS. CONFIAM THAT AS THE VEHICLE?
THAT'S A CONFIRM. THEY'RE COMING UP ON THE OFF RAMP.
UNDERSTOOD. GOING TO THERMAL IMAGING...


OKAY... ONE DRIVER, ONE FRONT PASSENGER... VERY HOT SPOT IN THE BACK...
...THAT'S OUR BOY. THAT'S A LOCK.
I'M GOING TO ENGAGE THE VEHICLE AS IT COMES OFF THE HIGHWAY.
NOW LISTEN UP. I'M GOING TO BE ENGAGING WITH REPULSOR WEAPONS.
REPULSORS ARE REACTIONLESS FORCE PROJECTION--ONE-WAY PUSH. GET IN THE WAY OF ONE AND YOU'RE RISKING BROKEN BONES AND INTERNAL ORGAN DAMAGE.
I WANT ALL POLICE OFFICERS PULLED WAY BACK UNTIL I'VE SUBDUED THE TARGET.
I'M GOING TO ATTEMPT TO FREE UP THE TWO IN THE FRONT FOR YOU.
STAND BY.

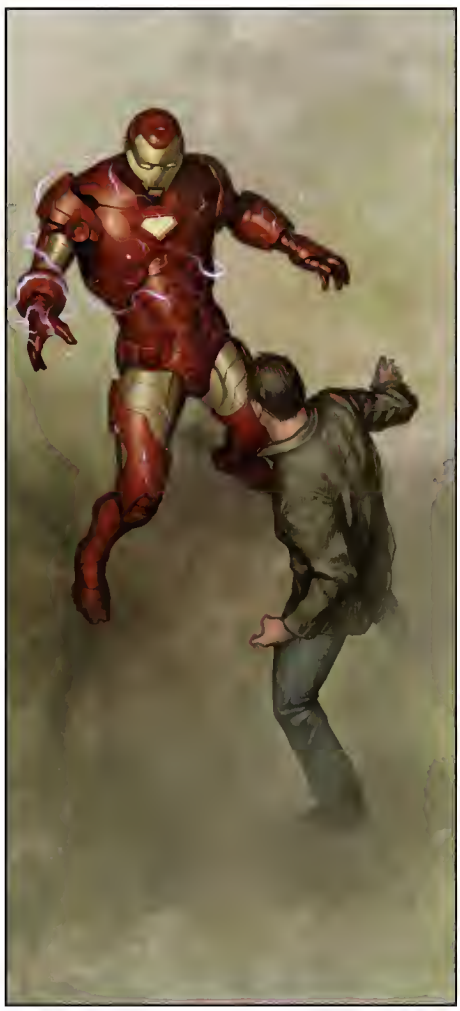

MUNITIONS
REPULSORS 40%
PRIMARY
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH...DON'T WANT TO VAPORIZE THEM...




LAY DOWN ON YOUR FACE WITH YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK AND CROSS YOUR ANKLES.
THERE'S NO REASON THIS HAS TO BE DIFFICULT.
YES, THERE IS.
LOTS OF REASONS.
OKAY...
MUNITIONS
REPULSORS 80%
PRIMARY


DAMN, HE'S FAST--
RESPONSE SERVERS
100%










RESTART






OH, GOD.




MUNITIONS
SCREAMERS / 4SECS


EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE




AAAAAAAA!


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OUT OF TIME PART 3
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Deserted Tunnels In the London Tube System
HE SAID THE RED SKULL IS DEAD?
YEAH BUT HE DIDN'T SAY HOW HE KNEW OR--
THOSE WERE HIS EXACT WORDS?
I DON'T KNOW. YEAH...HE SAID SOMEONE KILLED HIM AND THAT'S WHY HE HADN'T CALLED...
OH, AND HE SAID WE SHOULD SET THE TIMER ON THE DEVICE AND TELL PARIS TO SET THEIRS.
WANTS TO GO AHEAD AND BLOW THESE PLACES TO HELL AS A MEMORIAL, I GUESS...
YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED ME TO THE COM SYSTEM.
THIS CAN'T BE MY JOHANN... THIS...
SO, UH, YOU'RE IN CHARGE.. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
JUST LET ME THINK A MOMENT. I CAN'T EVEN GET MY--
DID YOU JUST HEAR--? WAS THAT GUNFIRE?

During the dark days of the early 1940s a covert military experiment turned Steve Rogers into America's first Super-Soldier, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

Throughout the war, Cap and his partner Bucky fought alongside our infantry and with a group of heroes known as the Invaders. In the closing months of WWII, Captain America and Bucky were both presumed dead in an explosion over the Arctic Ocean.

Decades later, a figure was found trapped in ice, and Captain America was revived. Having slept through more than half of the 20th century, Steve Rogers awakened to a world he never imagined, a world where war had moved from the battlefield to the city streets. A world in dire need of

CAPTAIN AMERICA

OUT OF TIME Part 3



Aleksander Lukin, a rogue Soviet general, used a cybernetic assassin to kill the Red Skull and steal the Cosmic Cube from his cold, dead hands. But the cube that Lukin now posesses is damaged and needs to be charged.

S.H.I.E.L.D. discovers the Skull's body and brings Captain America into the investigation. While Cap is reluctant to believe the Skull is actually dead, his doubts begin to fade as the pieces fall into place--especially when S.H.I.E.L.D. techs find a clue that leads to an A.I.M. splinter group called A.I.D.--Advanced Ideas in Destruction--who had plans to set off bombs on the Skull's orders in Manhattan, London, and Paris.

Cap and Sharon Carter manage to stop the bomb beneath Manhattan from going off, but one of the Skull's lieutenants escapes and puts the word out to the others that the master is dead, and the world should be set on fire in his memory.

While Cap struggles to accept that his longtime foe is dead, he must also accept that whoever killed him has the Cosmic Cube. A device that could destroy the world with just a thought is somewhere out there, on the loose.

Writer	Artist	Artist Pages 5, 17-19	Colorist	Letterer
Ed Brubaker	Steve Epting	Michael Lark	Frank D'Armata	VC's Randy Gentile

Production	Assistant Editors	Editor	Editor in Chief	Publisher
Jacob Chabot	Schmidt, Wiley & Lazer	Tom Brevoort	Joe Quesada	Dan Buckley

Captain America created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby

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S.H.I.E.L.D. Sub-Carrier—
CURRENTLY OVER THE ATLANTIC
--ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL IS ONE HOUR TWENTY MINUTES. SO I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE.
CONTAINMENT LEVELS. CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. EVERYTHING.
AND SOMEONE GET ME A LINK-UP WITH WHOEVER'S HANDLING THE LONDON TEAM. THEY SHOULD BE INSIDE BY NOW.
YES, MA'AM. I'LL GET ON IT. AGENT HEINBERG HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE DATA FOR OUR STRIKE.
PARIS
RIGHT. THE TRACE FROM THE SKULL'S RECEIVER APPEARS TO BE TRACKING TO THIS LOCATION, AND IF THE MANHATTAN DEVICE IS ANY INDICATION, IT'LL BE UNDERGROUND...
AND UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS AVENUE FOCH, ALONG THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES.
...SO WE'RE LOOKING AT A SERIOUS TARGET-RICH ENVIRONMENT IF THIS GOES BADLY.
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, HEINBERG. I NEED TO GET SOME TACTICAL INSIGHT.
WALK WITH ME.

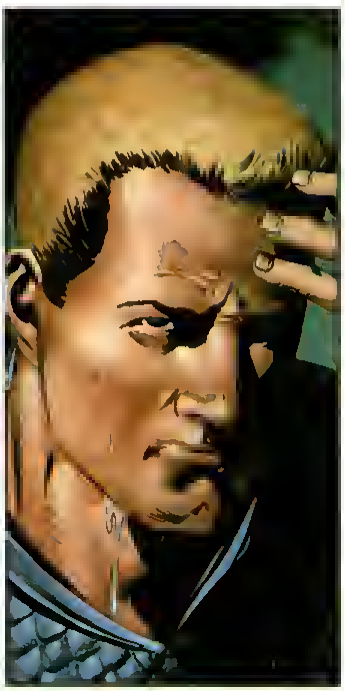

TACTICAL INSIGHT? WHAT'S UP?
YOU. LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN ANOTHER TIME ZONE, STEVE
I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN A HELL OF A NIGHT AND IT JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE, BUT I NEED YOU TO BE FOCUSED WHEN WE HIT PARIS


SHARON... I'M JUST TIRED-- A LOT ON MY MIND
LOOK, I'VE GOT THIS. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK? CATCH A FEW MINUTES SHUT-EYE OR GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE?


YOU'LL CALL ME?
THE SECOND FURY GETS IN TOUCH. SCOUT'S HONOR. GO.




C'MON ROGERS WAKE UP... WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?




ALL CLEAR SO FAR
THINK WE GOT A BUM TIP?
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE WAS CERTAIN ZEMO WAS PLANNING SOMETHING BUCKY. OR THEY WOULDN'T HAVE SENT US IN UNDERCOVER LIKE...
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
UHH!
CAP!
DON'T VASTE YOUR TEARS BOY. HE HAS SUFFERED NO MORE ZEN SOME CRACKED RIBS...
...ISN'T ZAT SO, CAPTAIN AMERIKA?
TAKE ZEM.

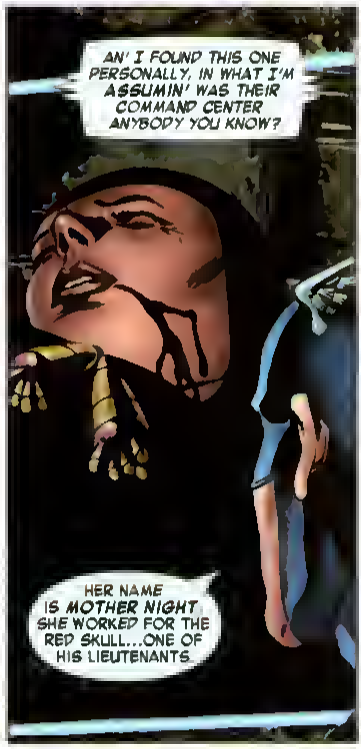

WHY DID I JUST REMEMBER THAT?
THAT FINAL MISSION BEFORE MY DEEP FREEZE... BEFORE BUCKY--WAIT.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT HAPPENED. THAT'S NOT HOW ZEMO CAPTURED US...
IS IT...?
KNK KNK
CAPTAIN, YOU IN THERE?
WHAT IS IT?
AGENT 13 NEEDS YOU ON THE COMMAND DECK. NOW.
WE'RE JUST GETTING WORD FROM OUR SQUAD IN LONDON.


London Tube System,
Half an Hour Ago
—JUST STOPPED TRANSMITTING THE SIGNAL ENTIRELY. LIKE SOMEONE TURNED OFF A SWITCH.
WELL THAT'S JUST BLOODY PERFECT, ISN'T IT?
SIR I'VE GOT A DEAD BODY HERE. LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE GROUP WE'RE AFTER— ADVANCED IDEAS IN DESTRUCTION.
MORE OF THE SAME DOWN THIS RUN.
BLOODY HELL ..SOMEONE SLAUGHTERED THE LOT OF THEM.
AID
RIGHT, GIVE US A RECON OF THE AREA. SEE IF ANY OF THESE GEEZERS ARE STILL BREATHING.
AND PLEASE TELL ME THE BLEEDING FIRE-BOMB IS DOWN HERE SOMEPLACE.


The Sub-Carrier, Now
HAD AN OLD FRIEND OF YOURS ON LOAN FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT LEADING THE MISSION
UNION JACK...IT'S BEEN A WHILE
THAT IT HAS, AN' I WISH I HAD BETTER NEWS FOR YOU.


YOU DIDN'T FIND THE SKULL'S MEN?
OH, WE FOUND 'EM, ALL RIGHT, BUT SOMEBODY ELSE FOUND 'EM FIRST. CUT THEM TO PIECES.
AND TO TOP IT OFF APPEARS THEY SNATCHED THE BOMB WE WERE SENT IN AFTER


TWO ITEMS OF INTEREST FOUND A SOLDIER AMONG THE DEAD THAT APPEARS TO BE FROM THE GROUP WHO LED THE ATTACK HERE'S HIS IMAGE


AN' I FOUND THIS ONE PERSONALLY, IN WHAT I'M ASSUMIN' WAS THEIR COMMAND CENTER ANYBODY YOU KNOW?
HER NAME IS MOTHER NIGHT SHE WORKED FOR THE RED SKULL...ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS


ALL RIGHT. CORDON OFF THE AREA UNTIL OUR TECHS ARRIVE HOPEFULLY THEY CAN FIGURE OUT WHERE THIS MYSTERY SOLDIER IS FROM AND GET A LEAD ON THE DEVICE AGENT 13 OUT


THE COSMIC CUBE AND ONE OF THE SKULL'S W.M.D.S ON THE LOOSE ..THIS NIGHT JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER


"...LET'S JUST HOPE WE'RE IN TIME TO STOP ANYTHING ELSE FROM GOING WRONG."
ADVANCE CHOPPER TO STRIKE LEADER
GO FOR STRIKE LEADER
SCANNER SHOWS THE DEVICE ON THE MOVE... AND WE'VE GOT A VISUAL OF THE SCENE...
...LOOKS LIKE OUR TARGET IS MAKING A RUN FOR IT
NO. SOMEONE ELSE IS TRYING TO GET IN ON THE ACTION. THAT'S AN A.I.M. HOVER-JET
THE SKULL'S MEN DON'T WORK FOR THEM ANYMORE.

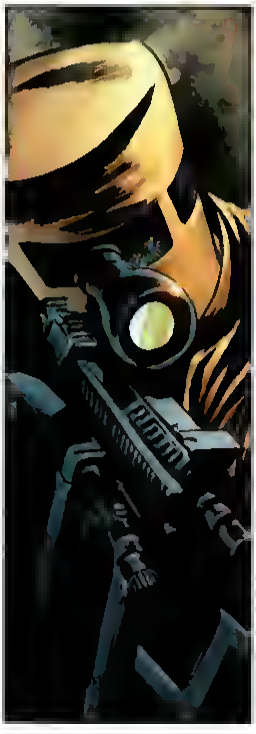

I'VE GOT THIS.
STEVE!


SHKK
FASH!
AHHH!


OPEN FIRE! KILL HIM!
KRJAKKRAKKRAKBLAMKRJAKKRAKRAKBLAM








WHACK






NOW, WHICH ONE OF YOU WANTS TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE *DOING* HERE?
WOW. FURY'S GONNA LOVE *THIS*.
WHAT?


S.H.I.E.L.D. Sub-Carrier, Two Hours Later
—HAD THE WMD IN THEIR SHIP, BUT THEY SWORE UP AND DOWN THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE LONDON ATTACK.
SAID THEY WERE TAKING BACK THEIR OWN PROPERTY. THAT THIS BREAK-OFF FACTION HAD STOLEN THEIR DESIGN AND SOLD IT TO THE SKULL.
AND WHAT DO THEY KNOW ABOUT THE CUBE?
NOTHING...AND OUR SEARCH CONFIRMED THEIR IGNORANCE. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANYONE, LIVING OR DEAD, ANYWHERE NEAR WHERE THE W.M.D. WAS SET TO BLOW.
LOOKS LIKE THE SKULL'S MEN CUT AND RUN WHEN THEY DIDN'T HEAR FROM HIM, LEAVING THE PACKAGE FOR THEIR OLD PALS TO JUST GRAB.
ALL RIGHT...WE'VE GOT SOME NEWS ON OUR SIDE OF THE WATER, BUT NOT MUCH.
DNA CONFIRMS THE DEAD MAN IS THE RED SKULL. BUT WE'VE HAD NO LUCK TRACING THE POLICE TIP THAT CALLED IN THE BODY.
SO, FOR NOW, ALL WE KNOW IS SOMEONE'S GOT THE CUBE, AND A DEVICE CREATED TO HELP CHARGE IT.
IT'S MORE THAN WE KNEW YESTERDAY.
A COMFORTING THOUGHT, ISN'T IT? LOOK, WE'RE IN A HOLDING PATTERN RIGHT NOW, SO WHY DON'T YOU HANDLE THE CLEANUP THERE AND THEN TAKE A NIGHT OFF?
PROBABLY THE LAST CHANCE YOU'LL GET FOR SOME R AN' R ANYTIME SOON...
JUST DO ME A FAVOR, ROGERS, AND TRY TO STAY OFF THE FRIGGIN' NEWS FOR A CHANGE.

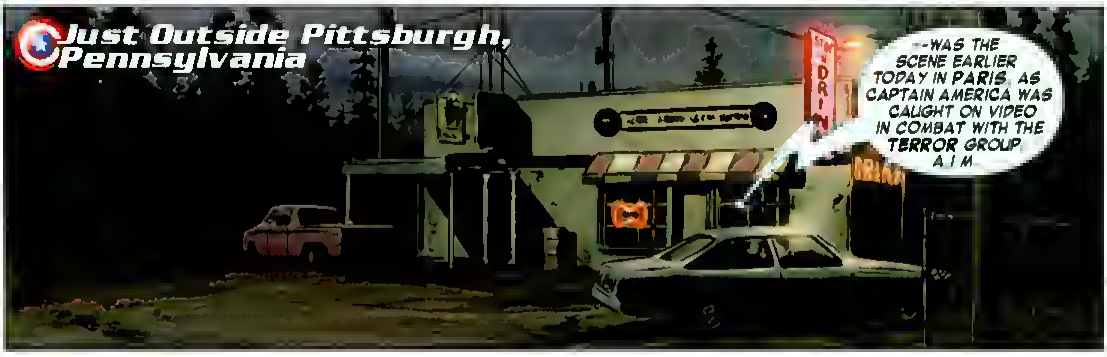

THANKS FOR THE COMPANY, STEVE.
I KNOW IT'S RIDICULOUS, CONSIDERING EVERYTHING GOING ON AROUND US, BUT FURY NEVER GIVES ME TIME OFF ANYWHERE GOOD.
MY LAST FREE NIGHT WAS IN AFGHANISTAN, AND THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A PLACE WHERE THEY KNOW HOW TO TREAT A LADY.
I'LL BET.
YOU DESERVE A NIGHT, AT LEAST. YOU'VE BEEN ON THE CLOCK EVEN LONGER THAN I HAVE TODAY...
I JUST WISH I WAS BETTER COMPANY.
HEY, ME TOO. BUT A GIRL CAN ONLY ASK FOR SO MUCH.
KIDDING.
SO... THE WAY YOU'RE LOOKING AROUND, I'M GUESSING THIS CITY BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES?
YEAH, I WAS FIRST HERE A LONG TIME AGO...


"...IN AUGUST OF 1944.
"MY FRIENDS AND I WORKED WITH THE *FRENCH RESISTANCE* DURING THEIR UPRISING HERE...
"WE WERE ALREADY IN FRANCE AS PART OF OPERATION DRAGOON...


"...SO WE WORKED OUR WAY UP FROM THE SOUTH AND MET WITH LEADERS FROM THE MAQUIS TO HELP PLAN THE ATTACK.
"I'VE SEEN A LOT OF COMBAT.. AND I'D SEEN A LOT BEFORE I GOT TO FRANCE...
"...BUT THE SAVAGERY INFLICTED ON THESE PEOPLE. I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT UNTIL WE GOT TO BUCHENWALD.
"THAT'S WHY IT REALLY GALLS ME WHEN I HEAR MY OWN PEOPLE DISMISSING THE FRENCH AS COWARDS.
"WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A PEOPLE WHO NEVER GAVE UP FIGHTING THE NAZI OCCUPATION. THEIR COUNTRY MAY HAVE SURRENDERED, BUT THEY DIDN'T...


"I SAW MEN AND WOMEN *CIVILIANS*, TAKE ON PANZER DIVISIONS KNOWING THAT THEIR OWN LOVED ONES WOULD BE *SLAUGHTERED* IN RETRIBUTION BY THE NAZIS.
"IN ONE DAY ALONE, 600 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN EXECUTED IN THE VILLAGE OF ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE. ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT THE MAQUIS DID ON D-DAY... STOPPING THOSE TANKS FROM GETTING TO NORMANDY.
"HAVE YOU EVER SEEN 600 BODIES IN ONE PLACE? OF *COURSE*, YOU HAVE... BUT I *HADN'T* UNTIL THEN.
"SO, WE WERE *PROUD* TO HELP THEM TAKE BACK PARIS.
"THE *VICTORY PARADE* CAME RIGHT DOWN THIS WAY AND UP THROUGH THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES MY FRIENDS AND I WATCHED FROM THE SIDELINES..."


IT WAS THEIR DAY, NOT OURS. BUT I NEVER FORGOT WHAT THEY'D PAID TO GET IT...
...WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY FAVORITE CITIES.
I FORGET HOW WORLDLY YOU ARE SOMETIMES, STEVE ROGERS...
I KNOW YOU DO, SHARON CARTER...HEY. LOOK...
A LITTLE. I MEAN, YEAH, OUR MISSION WASN'T EXACTLY A SUCCESS. BUT AT LEAST WE STOPPED A.I.M. FROM GETTING THEIR HANDS ON A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
THAT'S SOMETHING, RIGHT?
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON WHY, HUNH?
MAYBE... YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?
IT'S A START.
YEAH, IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING, ISN'T IT?
WHATEVER'S GOING ON, THIS IS ALL JUST THE BEGINNING...


Just Outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
--WAS THE SCENE EARLIER TODAY IN PARIS, AS CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS CAUGHT ON VIDEO IN COMBAT WITH THE TERROR GROUP A.I.M.


AND THOUGH THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE AREA, FRENCH PRESIDENT CHIRAC THIS EVENING PRAISED THE ACTIONS OF AMERICA'S HERO...
LOOK'A THAT. EVEN THE FRIGGIN' FRENCH LOVE THAT GU--
COURSE THEY DO. HE'S THE REAL THING MAN...I SHOULD KNOW...

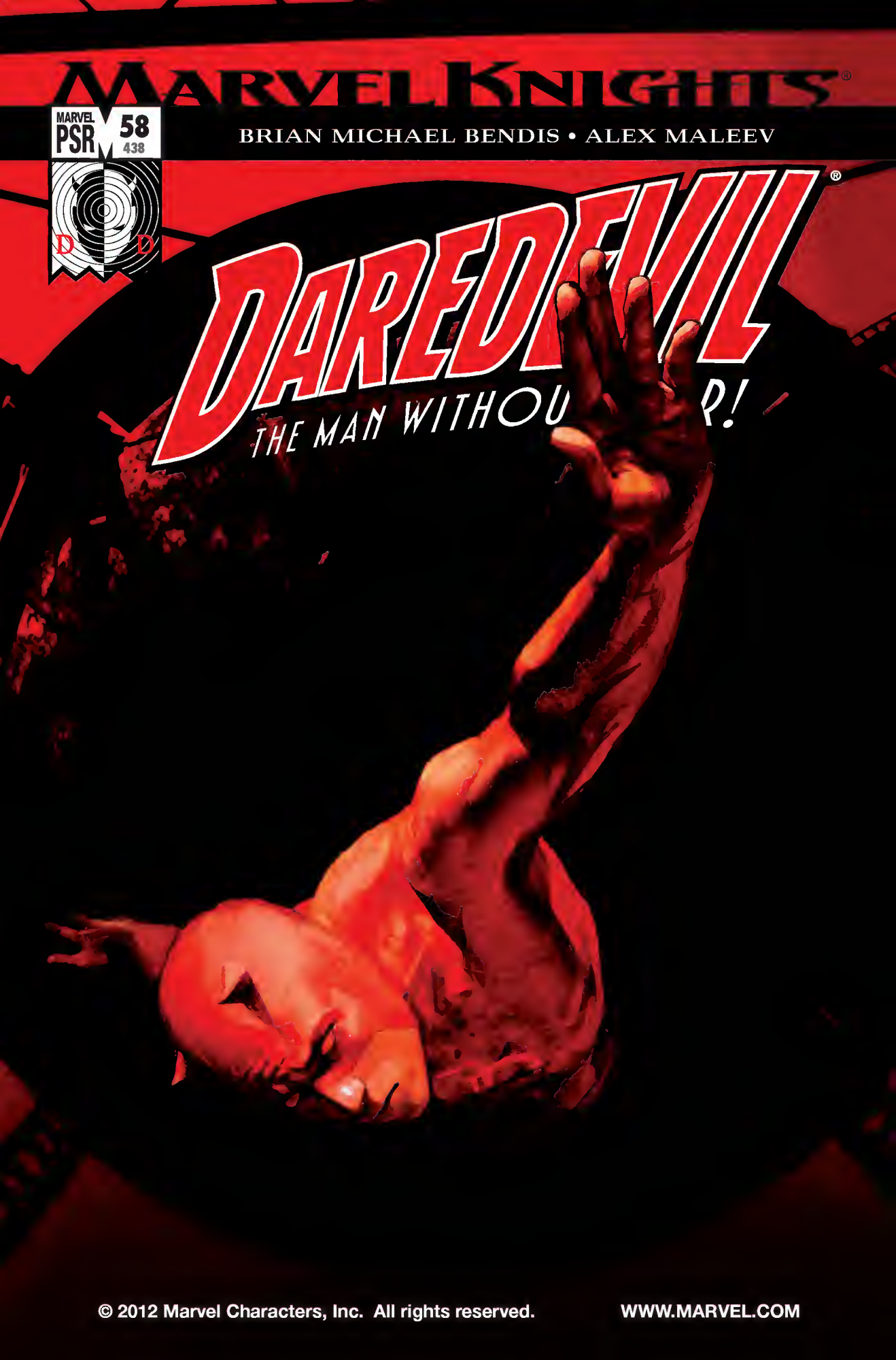

...I USE'TA WORK WITH HIM.


SUUURE YA DID, JACK. JUST LIKE YA SAW ELVIS BEFORE HE WAS FAMOUS...WORKED WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA, RIGHT.
I DID! I WAS HIS FREAKIN' PARTNER!
KSSH!


EASY ON THE GLASSWARE, JACK...JUST CHILL OUT...
GET YER HANDS OFF ME...


WHAT'S WITH HIM?
THAT GUY? BEEN DRINKIN' HERE FOR ABOUT A YEAR NOW...ALWAYS ONE CRAZY STORY AFTER TH' OTHER... BIG CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER.
KINDA SAD, REALLY...


DRINK
FREAKIN' CURTIS...I'LL SHOW THAT SON OF A...
JACK MONROE?
HUNH? YEAH. WHAT?
DON'T-- DO I KNOW YOU?
NO.
BLAM!
TO BE CONTINUED...



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ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND, BUT HIS OTHER FOUR SENSES FUNCTION WITH SUPERHUMAN SHARPNESS AND A RADAR SENSE. WITH AMAZING FIGHTING SKILLS HE STALKS THE STREETS AT NIGHT, A RELENTLESS AVENGER OF JUSTICE: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
STORY

ALEX MALEEV
ART

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
COLORIST

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
CORY PETIT
LETTERS

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR

KELLY LAMY
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

Previously in Daredevil...

One of the biggest tabloid newspapers in the city outed Matt Murdock. Daredevil's secret identity is revealed.

The secret is out.

Matt Murdock is now faced with a continuing uphill battle of publicly denying his secret life as Daredevil for fear of disbarment or jail.

But Matt's public struggle makes his alter ego more popular with the people than ever before.

Daredevil rescues a blind girl named Milla Donovan and they start to see each other romantically.

Then Daredevil does the unthinkable.

Faced with the growing frustration that his fight with the Kingpin would never end, Daredevil beats him and then removes his own mask, announcing to the underworld of the city that he is now the Kingpin and that his new rule is "clean up or get out."

That was a year ago.

Now, the Yakuza have come to take Matt out and claim Hell's Kitchen for their own. After a daring, violent, midnight battle on the rain-swept streets of Hell's Kitchen, the FBI take many of the Yakuza into custody and Matt disappears.

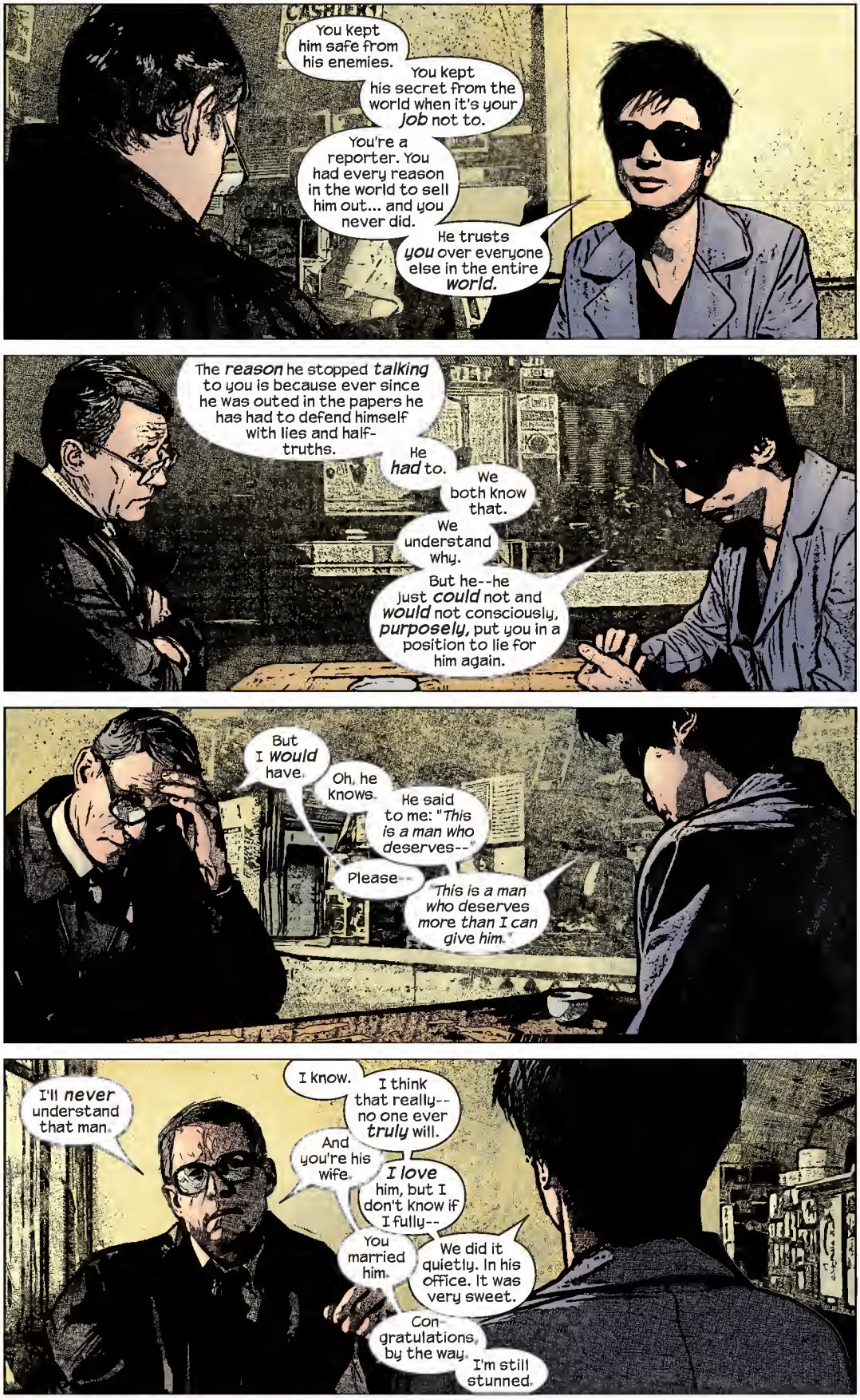
Milla, desperate to find Matt, goes to Ben Urich, a reporter for the Daily Bugle and Matt's estranged friend. Ben tells her everything he knows about Matt's year as Kingpin, but Milla drops a bigger bomb. She tells Ben that she is married to Matt Murdock...

The King of Hell's Kitchen: Part 3

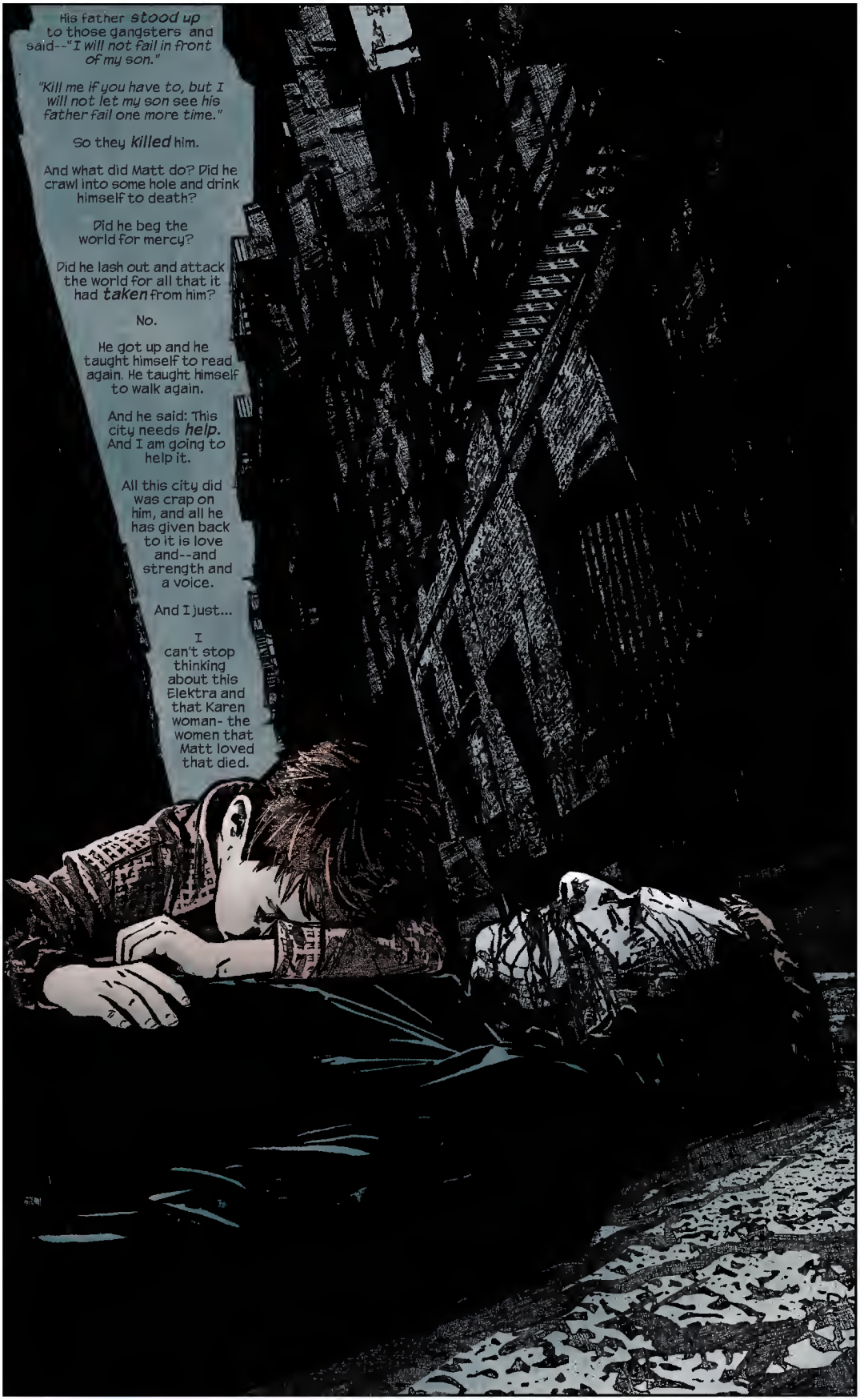
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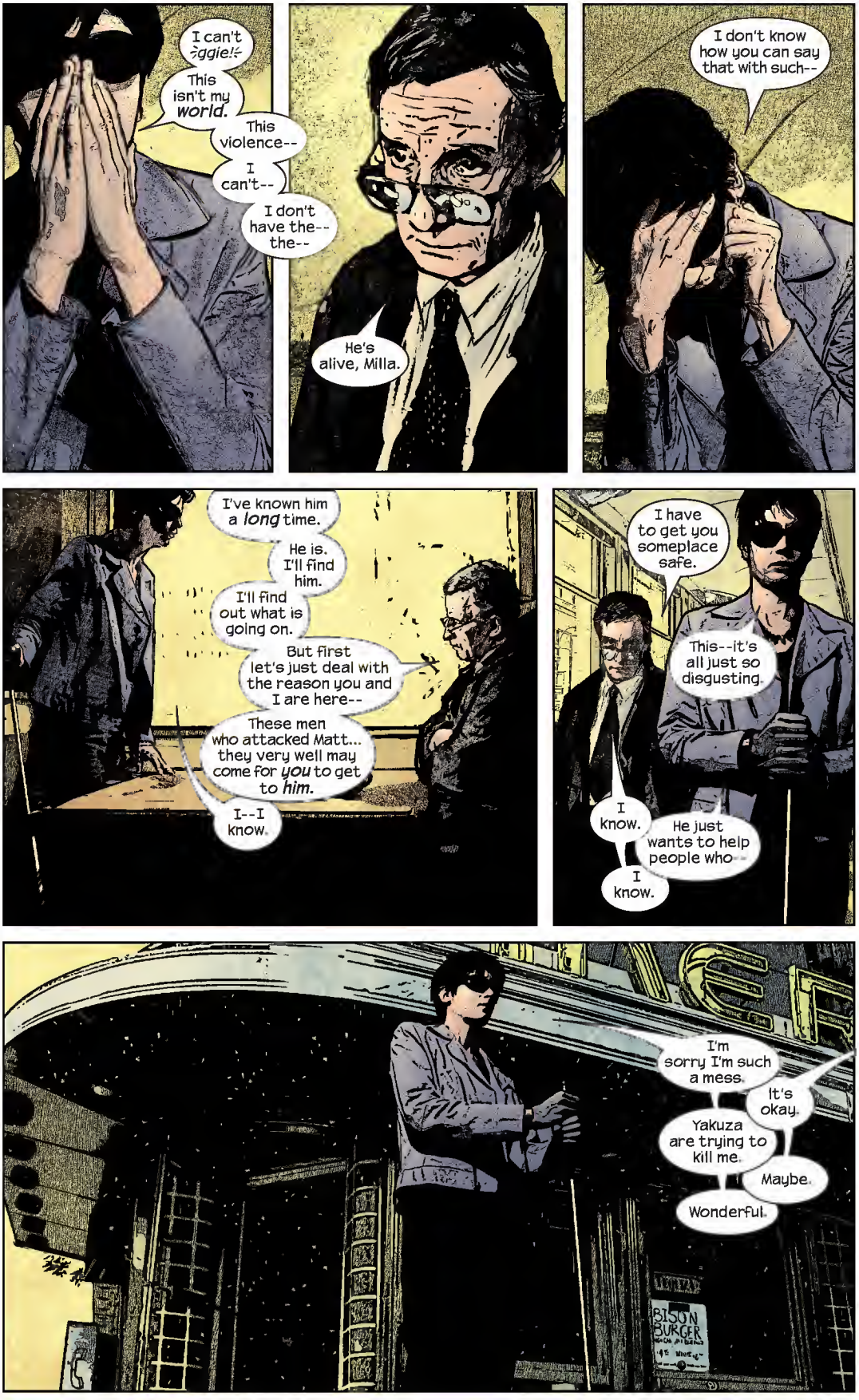

Milla, when did you and Matt Murdock... get *married?*
About-- about four months ago.
May 4th.
Hello?
I'm--I'm sorry.
I'm just *stunned.*


Well, I am blind.
So could you be 'stunned' a little louder.
I'm sorry.
I, um, I just--I guess I just never saw him as the marrying type.
Good Catholic boy.
Sure.
Well... guess he never found the right woman.
That's nice, thank you.
He said-- he said I was like this whole city all pushed into one woman.
And-- and he does love this city, so...
Gk!
This is hell! That's what this is, Mr. Urich. This is truly hell.
Matt is out there, somewhere. Who knows where!!!
And-- and I don't know what I'm supposed to--
I'm confused, I'm sorry.
Matt told you that in case of an emergency, in case something happened to him--he told you to find me?
Yes.
:sniff.:
But I haven't spoken to Matt in a year and a half. I--
Mr. Urich, Matt thinks the world of you.
He stopped talking to me a year and a half ago.
Because he didn't--
You don't understand...


You kept him safe from his enemies.
You kept his secret from the world when it's your *job* not to.
You're a reporter. You had every reason in the world to sell him out... and you never did.
He trusts *you* over everyone else in the entire *world.*
The *reason* he stopped *talking* to you is because ever since he was outed in the papers he has had to defend himself with lies and half-truths.
He *had* to.
We both know that.
We understand why.
But he--he just *could* not and *would* not consciously, *purposely,* put you in a position to lie for him again.
But I *would* have.
Oh, he knows.
He said to me: "*This is a man who deserves--*"
Please--
"*This is a man who deserves more than I can give him.*"
I'll *never* understand that man.
I know.
I think that really-- no one ever *truly* will.
And you're his wife.
I love him, but I don't know if I fully--
You married him.
We did it quietly. In his office. It was very sweet.
Con-gratulations, by the way.
I'm still stunned.


You see how terrible this is.
You see how this city just keeps hitting him and hitting him and hitting him.
First it took his eyesight away.
I never had *my* sight.
He had it and *lost* it. That- that's fifty times worse.
I don't care *what* special senses and abilities he got in trade for it--it's still a horrible loss.
Then this city took his father.
Gangsters killed his father because he wouldn't fix a fight.
He was a boxer and he refused to fix--
I know.
They pointed a gun at his father's face and destroyed it.
I know--
No. No. You *think* you do.
Here.
Uh--
Touch my face.
Do it. Close your eyes and touch my face.
You feel that?
This--this is how a blind person touches someone they love.
This is how they *recognize* them.
Now, can you imagine touching the face of what *used* to be your father...
...but now a bullet had *destroyed* it?
I bet he didn't even know what he was touching at first.
This-- this bloody pulp. This disfigured mess.

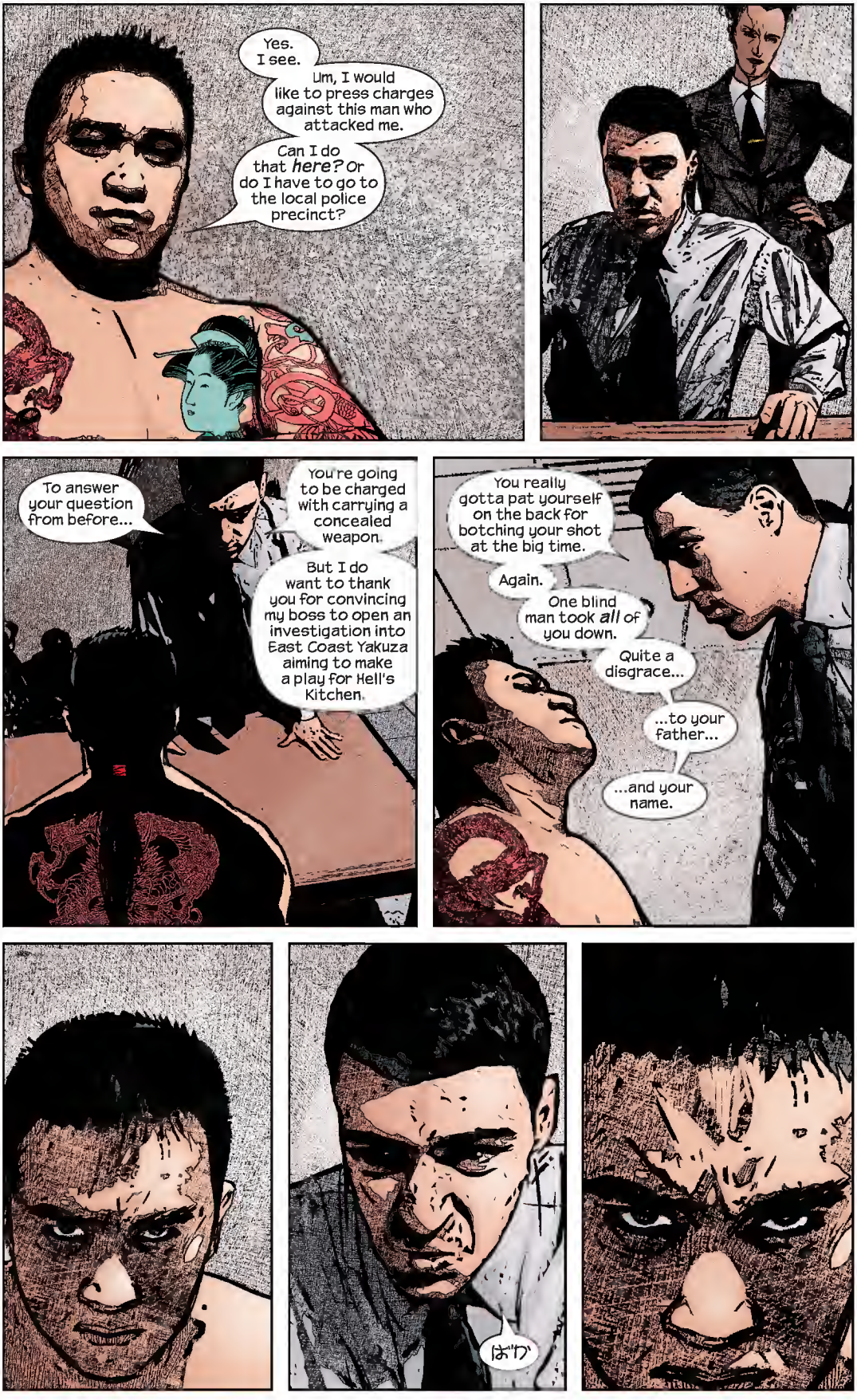

His father stood up to those gangsters and said--"I will not fail in front of my son."
"Kill me if you have to, but I will not let my son see his father fail one more time."
So they killed him.
And what did Matt do? Did he crawl into some hole and drink himself to death?
Did he beg the world for mercy?
Did he lash out and attack the world for all that it had taken from him?
No.
He got up and he taught himself to read again. He taught himself to walk again.
And he said: This city needs help. And I am going to help it.
All this city did was crap on him, and all he has given back to it is love and--and strength and a voice.
And I just...
I can't stop thinking about this Elektra and that Karen woman- the women that Matt loved that died.


I can't ≥ggie!≤
This isn't my world.
This violence--
I can't--
I don't have the-- the--
He's alive, Milla.
I don't know how you can say that with such--
I've known him a long time.
He is. I'll find him.
I'll find out what is going on.
But first let's just deal with the reason you and I are here--
These men who attacked Matt... they very well may come for you to get to him.
I--I know.
I have to get you someplace safe.
This--it's all just so disgusting.
I know.
He just wants to help people who--
I know.
I'm sorry I'm such a mess.
It's okay.
Yakuza are trying to kill me.
Maybe.
Wonderful.
BISON BURGER


One Federal Plaza
Sano Orii.
My name is Agent Driver. This is Special Agent Del Toro.
Am I under arrest?
Well, looking over your sheet here...
You'd think that with the amount of times you *have been* arrested that you would know what that *feels* like by now.
We have some questions about last night.
I was in town visiting friends.
Long way from Philly, aren't you?
I was in town visiting friends.
Yes, quite a group a' *pals* you got there.
My friends and I were walking home from a lovely dinner... when this guy *attacked* us.
Out of nowhere.
Matt Murdock attacked *you*?
Is that his name?
Are you kidding me with this?


He attacked *you*?
All carrying swords and guns--
One hundred and seven armed members of West Coast Yakuza led by Sano Orii of the Philadelphia crime cartel...
And bats--
And half of you hopped up on MGH
And *he* attacked *you*?
I don't know anything about any of *that*.
All I know is I was walking home and I was *attacked*.
Am I under arrest for something?
How does conspiracy to commit murder sound to ya?
Oh.
See...
It's my understanding, from the agents that brought me in here, that *you* were watching this Murdock--
That you have him *"under surveillances."*
So, you, no doubt, saw for yourself that this man attacked me first.
Well, good thing you had your samurai sword.
Yes.


That you were carrying around under your coat?
It was a gift from a friend. I was taking it home.
And the guns and the bats?
I don't know about any of *that*.
Uh-huh.
You'll have to ask the people who were carrying them...
And the MGH?
I don't know what that is?
The *Mutant Growth Hormone* you low level sewer rats are using and selling!!
The synthetic genetic crap you're shoving into your bodies so you can play super hero!!
Oh, well, I, *me*, I don't use any drugs of any kind.
But some of your "friends" were.
Not all those gentlemen were my friends.
Some were friends of friends.
No.
No one I know uses drugs.
They are bad for you.
Wow...
...do I hate you.


Yes.
I see.
Um, I would like to press charges against this man who attacked me.
Can I do that *here?* Or do I have to go to the local police precinct?
To answer your question from before...
You're going to be charged with carrying a concealed weapon.
But I do want to thank you for convincing my boss to open an investigation into East Coast Yakuza aiming to make a play for Hell's Kitchen.
You really gotta pat yourself on the back for botching your shot at the big time.
Again.
One blind man took *all* of you down.
Quite a disgrace...
...to your father...
...and your name.
はぁ?


Nelson and Murdock, Attorneys-at-law
Can I help you?
My name is Ben Urich. I'm here to see Foggy Nelson.
You don't have an appointment?
I did call.
Security.
Security?
I just-- uh...
Can I help you?
Uh, yeah, uh, I'm a friend of Ben- I mean Foggy Nelson and I--
Stand over there, please.
We'll need to see some ID.
Hold out your finger, please.
I'm sorry?
Hold out your finger.


Sorry.
Ah! Hey!
What are you doing?
One moment.
Jeez.
Just takes a second.
He's clear.
Sorry for the inconvenience.
What did you just *do*?
Had to make sure you were who you said you were.
Just making sure you weren't some *freak* thing trying to sneak your way in here.
You could have just--
Again, I apologize.
Mr. Nelson, you have a visitor, sir.


Hmmm?


Hey, Foggy.
Quite a set-up you got going out there.


Ben.
Haven't seen you in a *long* time.
You living in your office now?
You know somewhere else I can sleep?
You sleeping at all?


Yeah, sure.
See this? It's my third *book* offer this year.
Advance of almost a million.
Good for you.
They keep upping the offer because *they* think I'm holding out for more money.
I should just take it and move to Europe and that'll be that and that's that.


Why *don't* you?
I'm asking you, Why don't I?
You look exactly the same, Ben. How's Jonah Jameson?
Exactly the same... to a fault.
I need to talk to Matt.




I *need* to talk to Matt.


There was once a time where people actually wanted to talk to *me.*
I don't remember *when* that time was, but I'm sure there *must* have been one.
I know you know where he is.
Well, I don't.
And I have a *business* to run. We have an important court case--
Just tell him I need to--
Ben!
Milla needs to know he's okay.
Milla is with you?
Matt sent her to me... in the event that something bad happened to him.
She came to me. She's worried.
I know you know where he is.
Why would he send Milla to you?


I'll ask him when you tell me where--
Milla he sent to you for safe-keeping...
Me? I have to fend for myself with the frickin' frackin *Yakuza* running around.


You seem to be fending alright.


Yeah, well, I'm ordering lunch *in* today, I can tell you *that*.
So, what *is* this? This Yakuza. What is it they want?


They want--I don't know...
They want what they want. They want to plant themselves here in the Kitchen.
The entire area's ripe for some sort of--
Actually, you know what--


I don't want to talk about any of this.
All this crap of Matt's!
And you know what?
He never-- he just up and made himself the kingpin of the city and he didn't run it by me or anything.
Just did it.
Just went and did it.


And now I have a lot to do today.
And I have Matt's stuff to do too.
Again.


Who has to do all the paper-work that the Matt Murdock circus brings?
Oh, yeah, that would be me.
Truth told... I wish the Yakuza *would* storm this place. Take me out of my misery.
Actually I wouldn't mind if, like, Galactus would *eat* me so I can just be done with all this crazy.
I swear to God, Ben...
Ever since Karen Page died.
The whole thing, it's all gone to hell.
What? What did you say?
I mean, there's always been a whole lot of crazy.
But all this, this is *really* crazy.
Feels like ever since Karen died...
I don't know...
Guess I'm just nostalgic.


BEN FORMAN & SONS




NIGHT MEDIC
CENTER

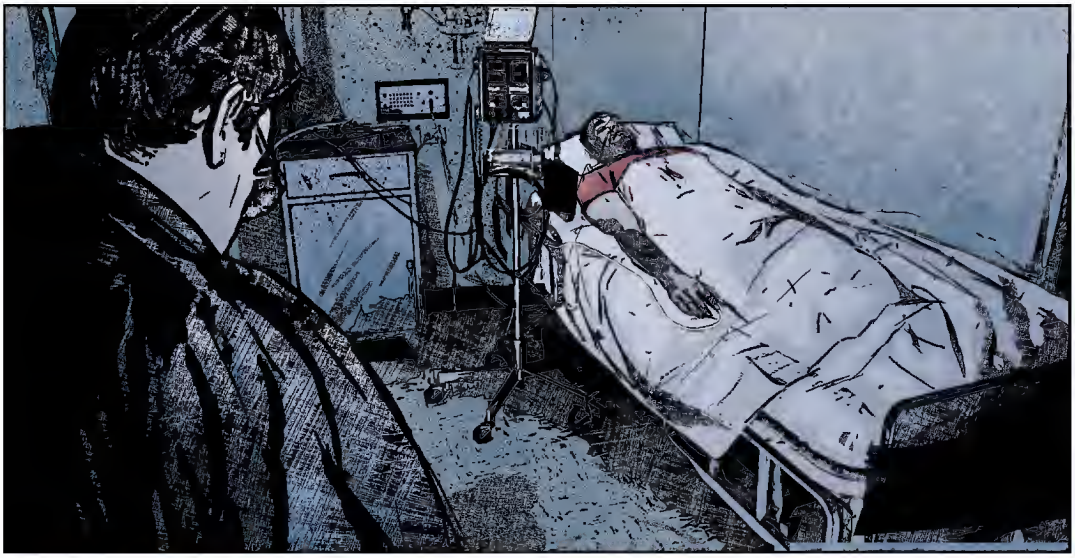


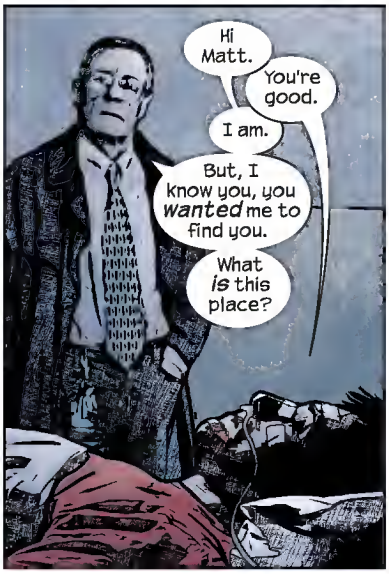



Can I help you?


Can I help you?
I'm, ummm I'm looking for a friend.
He's not here.
You don't even know who I am looking for.
There's no one here.
I'm Ben Urich, and you are?
I'm the night nurse.


Uh, yeah. I'm looking for--
I told you, Mr. Urich. He is not here.
BLEE BLEE
Excuse me.
Yes. Oh.
Okay. Yes.
Go down the hall.
It's the room on the right.
The room on the right.




Hi Matt.
You're good.
I am.
But, I know you, you *wanted* me to find you.
What *is* this place?


She's the night nurse.
Yeah, I caught that.
She's good people.
She's sympathetic to... costumed persons who get a little nicked up in the, uh, the call of duty,

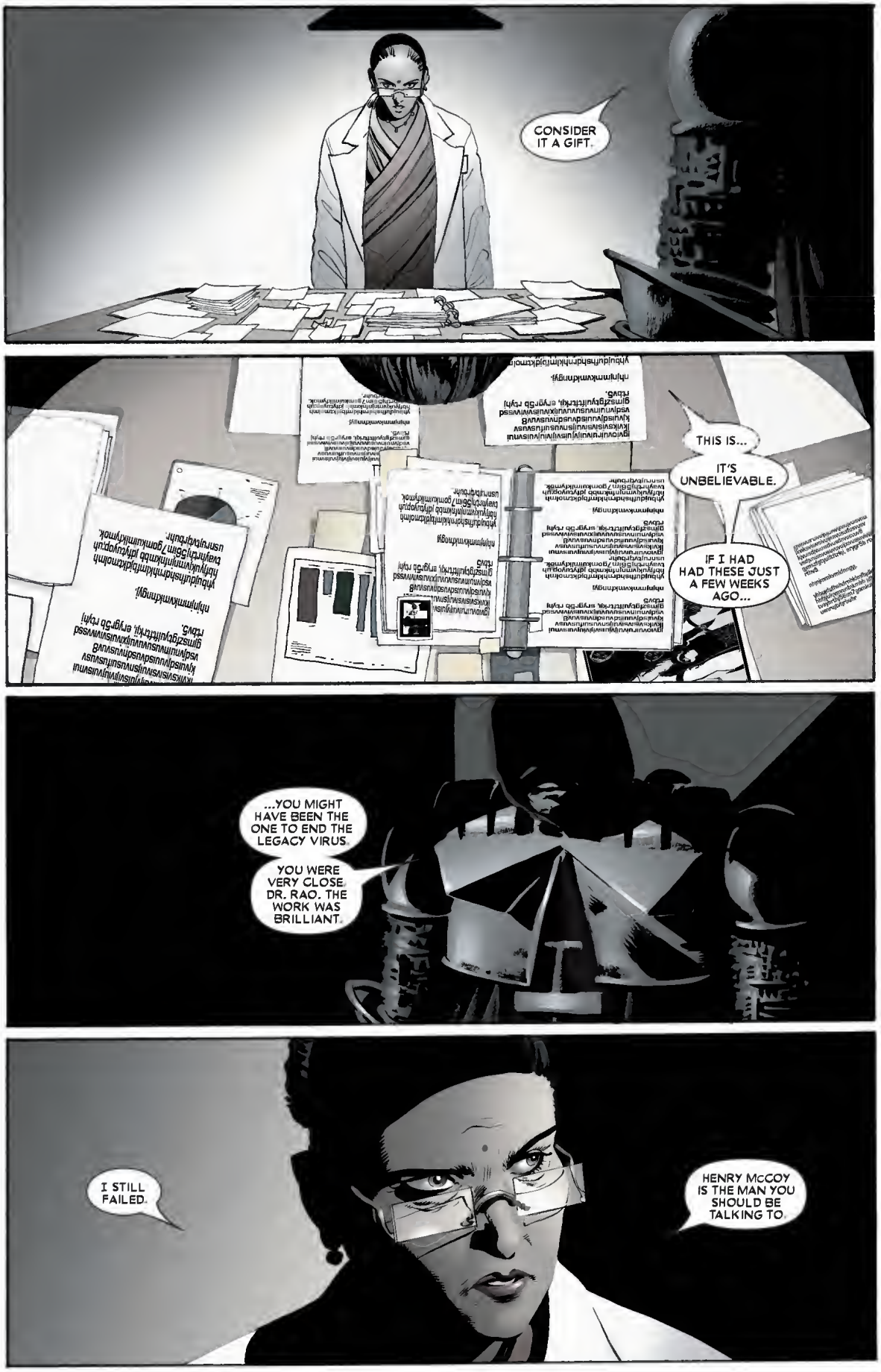

"A little nicked up?"
You've been shot.


And stabbed.
Let's not discount a good, old-fashioned sword stabbing.
Yeah, well, we all know--people like me--we know we can come here to get patched up.
No questions asked.
And I hardly want to declare *this* on our medical insurance.


How long has she been doing this for you guys?
Years.
I didn't know this.
It's because it's a big secret. So shhh...
You seem chipper.
I'm veeeerrrryyyyy hopped up on pain killers.
Because I'm in a whole lot of pain.


Is Milla okay?
Your wife? Yes.
Good.
Your wife.
Surprise.
Can I ask you a question?
Uh-oh...
All of this crazy you have going on?
This declaring yourself kingpin.
Marrying Milla.
Not being Daredevil anymore.
All of this...
After Karen died--
Do you think, maybe...
Do you think you had a nervous breakdown?
Is *that* what this is?


MARVEL
PSR 6
WHEDON
CASSADAY
ASTONISHING
X-MEN
Laura

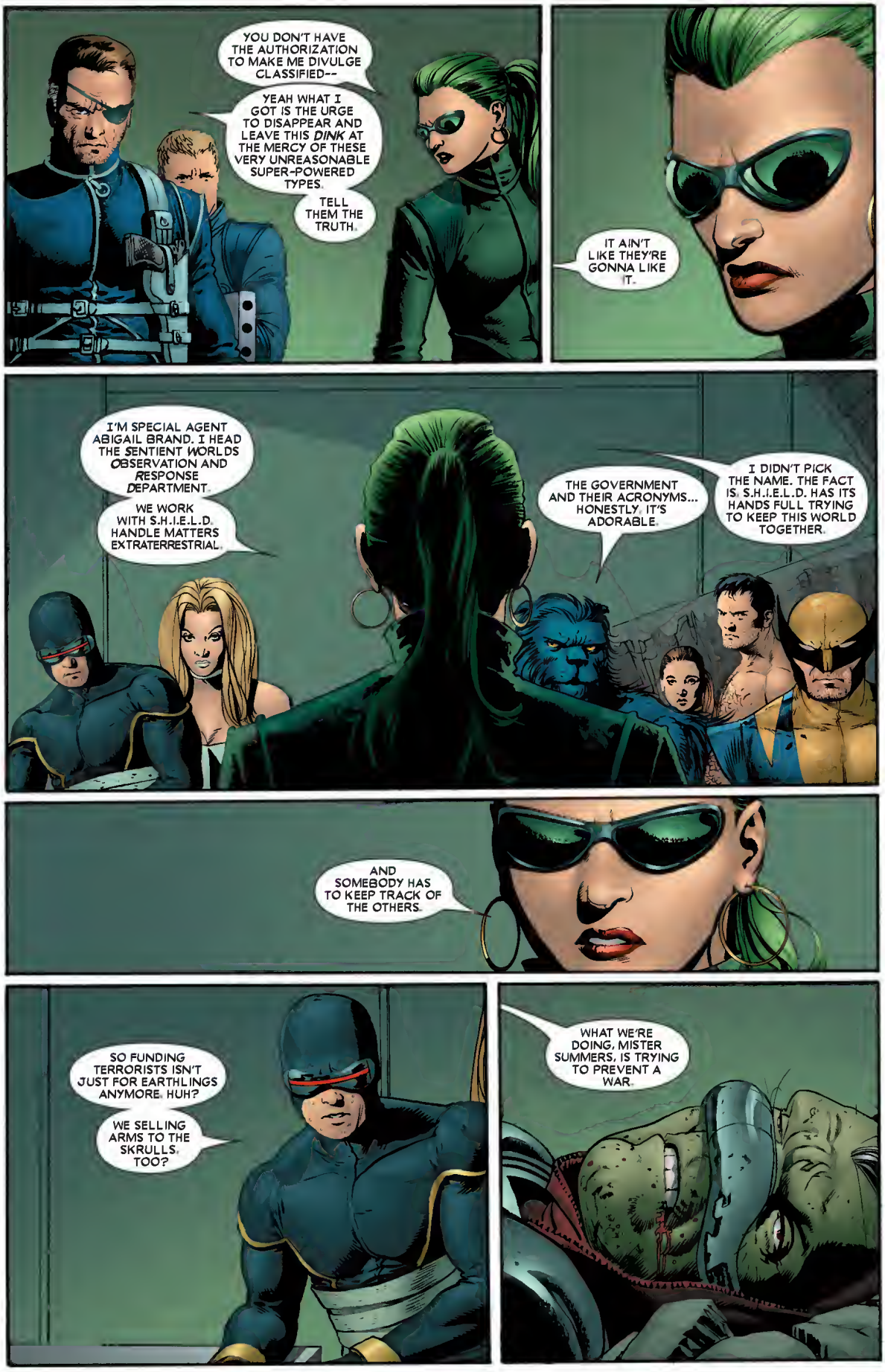

CONSIDER IT A GIFT.
THIS IS...
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.
IF I HAD HAD THESE JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO...
...YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE ONE TO END THE LEGACY VIRUS.
YOU WERE VERY CLOSE, DR. RAO. THE WORK WAS BRILLIANT.
I STILL FAILED.
HENRY McCOY IS THE MAN YOU SHOULD BE TALKING TO.


I DON'T BELIEVE DR. McCOY WOULD BE OBJECTIVE ABOUT MY... OBJECTIVE.
GIVEN HIS CONDITION.
UNDERSTAND THIS--NO ONE IS TO BE HURT. WHATEVER YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT MUTANTS. I WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO MURDER.
WHY, DOCTOR. I HAVE JUST THIS NIGHT DONE THE OPPOSITE.
I HAVE RESUSCITATED A MUTANT YOUR EARTH-BASED SCIENCE THOUGHT DECEASED.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR MISTRUST. IN POINT OF FACT, I RESPECT IT.
BUT THERE ARE MILLIONS OF LIVES AT STAKE, AND MY ONLY INTEREST IS IN SAVING THEM.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN TURN YOUR BACK ON THAT OPPORTUNITY.
AGENT BRAND, DO YOU HAVE THE FILE ON TILDIE SOAMES?


DIPLOMATIC #%$e*&%!!e#$e% #%$###e #$$%$#e# $$#%$#e#$%#%e $#$e$%eee%eee$ #%$##%eeeee!! IMMUNITY?
YOU HEARD ME, TINY.
AND HAVING HEARD, YOU WALK AWAY.


NOT BLOODY LIKELY.
PLAY ME STRAIGHT, FURY. THIS DINK IS A DIPLOMAT?
YOU DON'T NEED THAT INFORMATION.
AND YOU DON'T NEED BOTH THOSE ARMS, HYDRA-HAIR.
SEEMS LIKE YOU GOT A FEW ANSWERS OF YOUR OWN SHOULD BE COMING.
CHIEF AMONG THEM.
WASN'T THAT GUY DEAD?
HE WAS *HERE*. HERE BEING *TORTURED*, BEING TESTED BY ORD LIKE AN ANIMAL SO YOU COULD DESIGN YOUR *CURE*.


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU DON'T? YOU'RE CLEARLY IN BED WITH THIS ALIEN *BERK* YET YOU'VE NO CLUE WHAT HE'S BEEN UP TO.
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU. GREAT BIG COVERT MUCKITY, AND ALL THAT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR COLOSSUS IS THE GENUINE ARTICLE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I READ HIS MIND.
I MATCHED HIS DNA.
I SMELLED HIM.
I ALSO DID THAT.
THIS IS PETER NIKOLAIEVITCH RASPUTIN.
AND YOU OWE HIM THE GODDAMN TRUTH.
AGENT BRAND?


YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE ME DIVULGE CLASSIFIED--
YEAH WHAT I GOT IS THE URGE TO DISAPPEAR AND LEAVE THIS *DINK* AT THE MERCY OF THESE VERY UNREASONABLE SUPER-POWERED TYPES.
TELL THEM THE TRUTH.
IT AIN'T LIKE THEY'RE GONNA LIKE IT.
I'M SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND. I HEAD THE *S*ENTIENT *W*ORLDS *O*BSERVATION AND *R*ESPONSE *D*EPARTMENT.
WE WORK WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. HANDLE MATTERS EXTRATERRESTRIAL.
THE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR ACRONYMS... HONESTLY, IT'S ADORABLE.
I DIDN'T PICK THE NAME. THE FACT IS, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS ITS HANDS FULL TRYING TO KEEP THIS WORLD TOGETHER.
AND SOMEBODY HAS TO KEEP TRACK OF THE OTHERS.
SO FUNDING TERRORISTS ISN'T JUST FOR EARTHLINGS ANYMORE, HUH?
WE SELLING ARMS TO THE SKRULLS, TOO?
WHAT WE'RE DOING, MISTER SUMMERS, IS TRYING TO PREVENT A WAR.

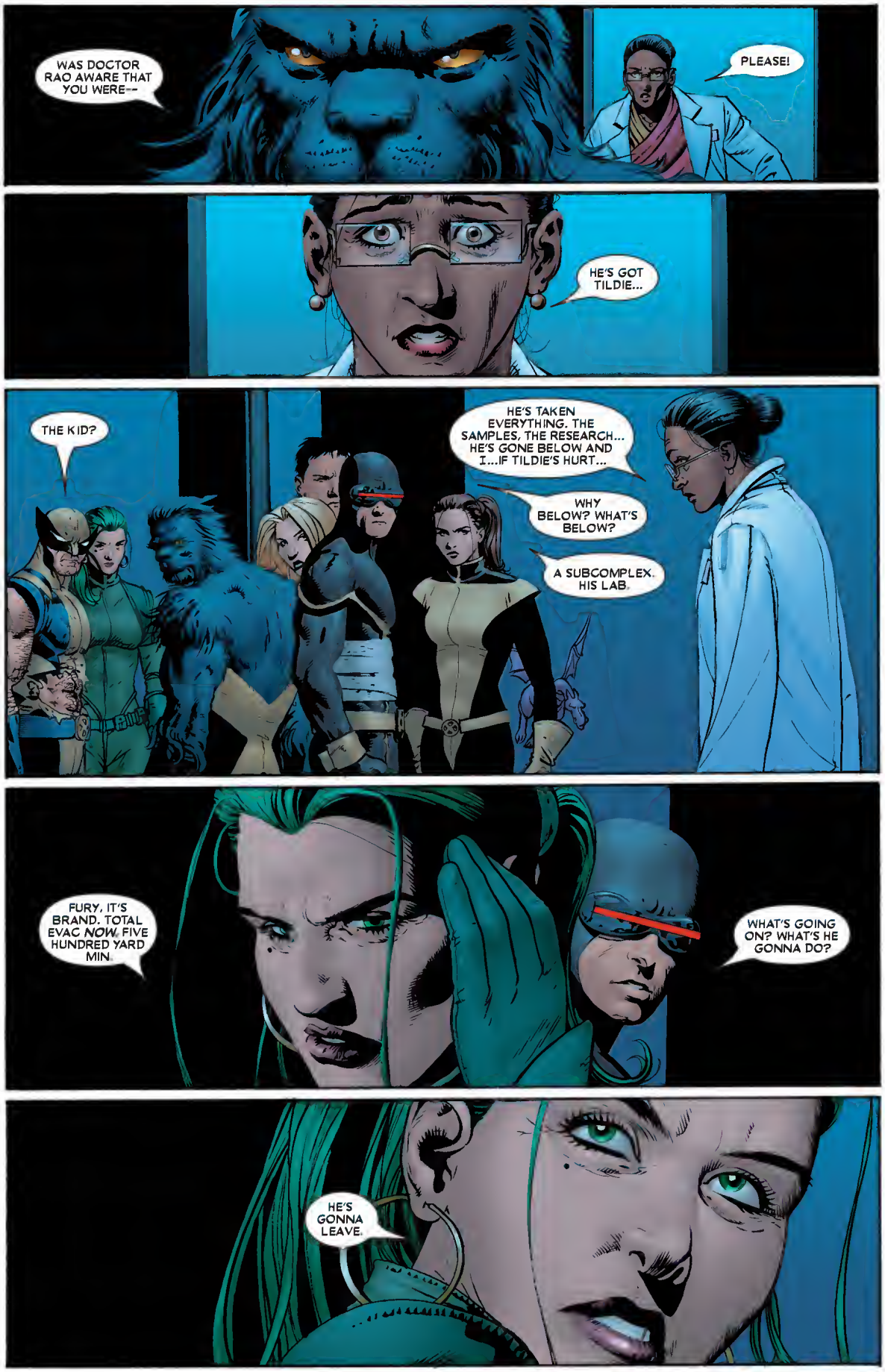

WHERE IS IT?
WHERE'S THE CURE?!
HOLD FIRE! THESE ARE CIVILIANS!
NO MORE WAIT... PLEASE...
NEED BODY...WHOLE BODY...


NEED BE HUMAN...
SIR. WE'VE HAD A PERIMETER BREACH ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER!
REALLY? THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.
IT'S A FULL-SCALE RIOT SIR!
WELL CALL IN THE SANDMEN, PUT 'EM TO SLEEP! AND THEN DEMOTE YOURSELF TO CROSSING GUARD, YA MORON.
ORD.
WHERE'S ORD?
"AND THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY TO YOU, YOU HIPROKITS! I DON'T EVEN WANT TEA OR CAKE."
WE NEED AGENTS UP IN RESEARCH RIGHT NOW! ORD IS LOOSE AND VERY UNSTABLE!
WHAT THE--


"YOU PEOPLE ARE IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE."
WELL, THAT'S THE WORLD WE'RE FROM.
FINISH YOUR STORY, AGENT.
GENOCIDE. "AND THEY ALL DIED SUDDENLY EVER AFTER." THE END.
YOU LIKE IT?


THE BREAKWORLD'S TECHNOLOGIES INCLUDE SOMETHING THAT TRANSLATES ROUGHLY AS "TIMESHADOWS".
THEY CAN SEE A PARTIAL VERSION OF THE FUTURE. NOT VISIT. NOT CHANGE, JUST SEE.
"THEY SAW A WORLD IN CHAOS.
"IN ASHES.
"THE BREAKWORLD, GONE IN THEIR LIFETIMES. DESTROYED UTTERLY.
"BY A MUTANT."
MOST PROBABLY AN X-MAN.


SO YOU GOT TOGETHER AND DECIDED TO TAKE CARE OF THE MUTIES ONCE AND FOR ALL, HUH?
DEAL WITH THE FACTS, BUMBLEBEE. OUR OWN PRECOG STATS CONFIRMED THEIR FINDINGS. A MUTANT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY DESTROY THE BREAKWORLD IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.
THAT'S A WHOLE WORLD, GONE. BECAUSE OF ONE MUTANT.
THAT WOULDN'T BE A FIRST, NOW, WOULD IT?
JEAN.
JEAN GREY IS *DEAD*, AGENT.
YEAH, *THAT'LL* LAST.
DID YOU KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING TO PETER? ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU KNOW?
YES.
FURY DIDN'T. NOT HIS DEPARTMENT.
WHAT ABOUT KAVITA?
ORD CAME HERE WITH A DECLARATION OF *WAR*, PEOPLE. THE CURE WAS DIPLOMATIC TAP DANCING TILL WE COULD GET A BEAD ON WHICH MUTANT WAS--
PLEASE ANSWER MY QUESTION.

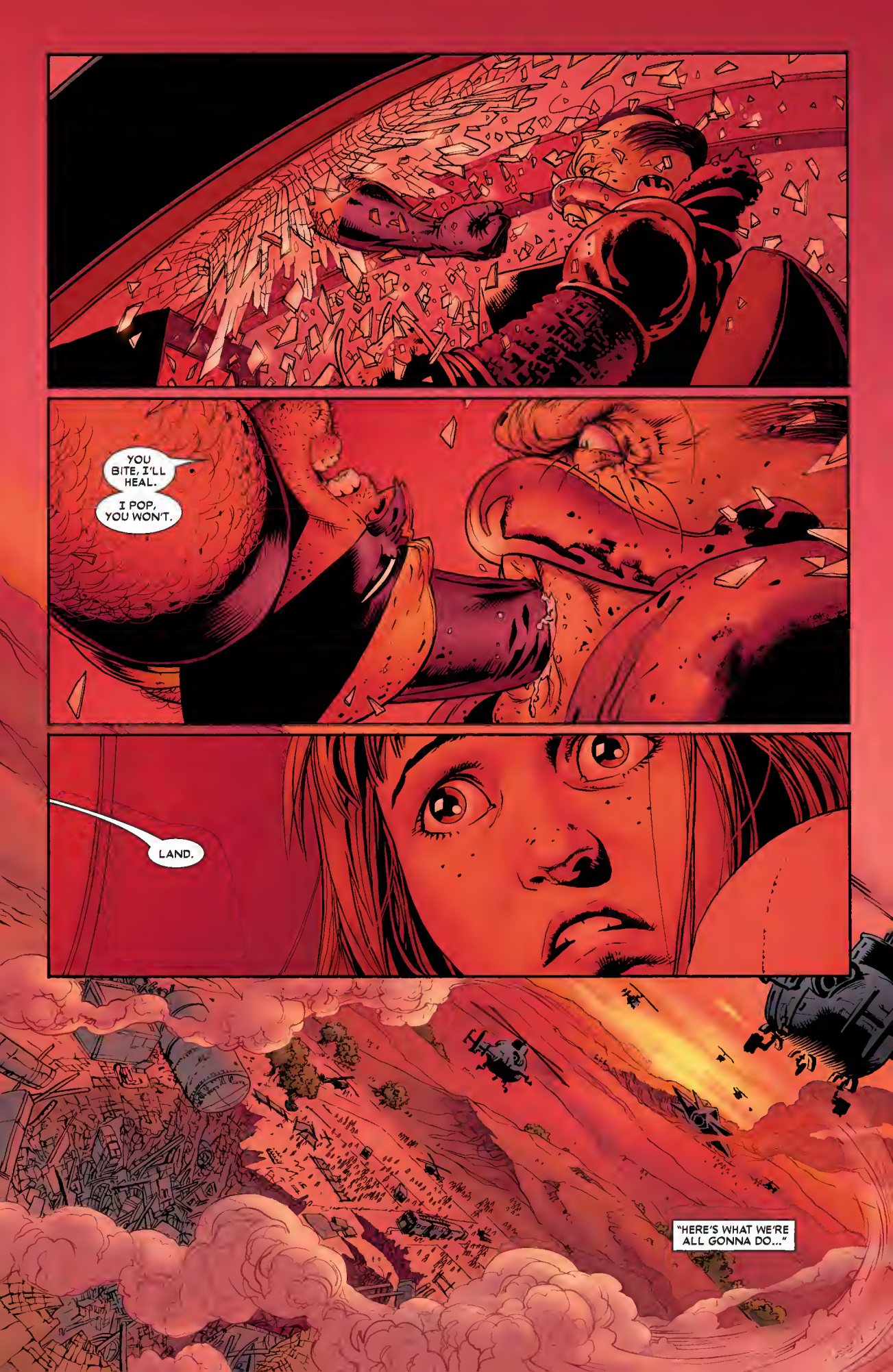

WAS DOCTOR RAO AWARE THAT YOU WERE--
PLEASE!
HE'S GOT TILDIE...
THE KID?
HE'S TAKEN EVERYTHING. THE SAMPLES, THE RESEARCH... HE'S GONE BELOW AND I...IF TILDIE'S HURT...
WHY BELOW? WHAT'S BELOW?
A SUBCOMPLEX. HIS LAB.
FURY, IT'S BRAND. TOTAL EVAC *NOW*. FIVE HUNDRED YARD MIN.
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S HE GONNA DO?
HE'S GONNA LEAVE.




YOU WERE GONNA BRIEF ME ON THIS, I'M SURE.
CAN YOU BRING HIM DOWN?
NOT A CHANCE.
HE'S GOT THE BLOODY SERUM, PEOPLE! HIT HIM WITH THE JET!
THERE'S A GIRL IN THERE WITH HIM!
YOU HAVE TO HELP HER...
YOU'RE NOT SEEING THE BIG PICTURE TOO WELL ANYMORE.
HE'S BUILDING TO VERTICAL THRUST. TEN SECONDS AND HE'S GONE.
NO.
HE DOESN'T GET AWAY.
YOU FEELING RESTED UP, PETEY?
I AM STRONG.
THEN I GOT JUST TWO WORDS FOR YOU, BUB.

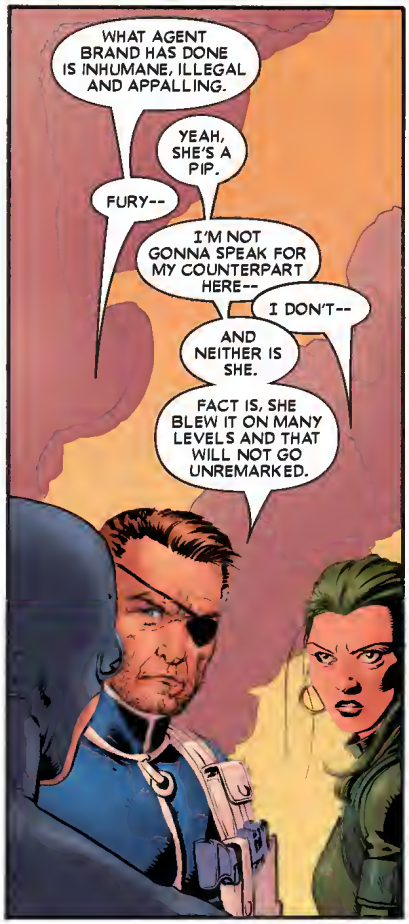



YOU REALLY HAVE KEPT IN SHAPE.
HHHNGK!
WHUNNNG!
NYWHOAH!
RRRRRRRMMMMMMMM
DID THE DOCTOR TELL YOU THERE WOULD BE NO MORE NIGHTMARES, LITTLE ONE?
DID YOU ALWAYS KNOW SHE WAS LYING?
THERE WILL BE NIGHTMARES. I WILL MAKE THE EARTH AN ENDLESS, SHRIEKING BLACKNESS.
FIRST THE MUTANTS. I HAVE MY "CURE" NOW. AND AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU THEY'LL WAIT JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO--

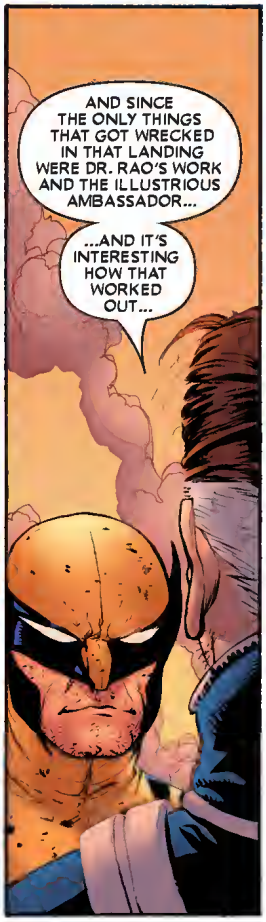

YOU BITE, I'LL HEAL.
I POP, YOU WON'T.
LAND.
"HERE'S WHAT WE'RE ALL GONNA DO..."

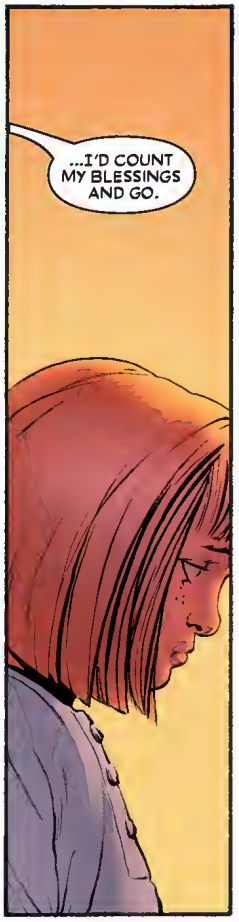

...NOT A SOLITARY THING.
WE ALL WALK AWAY FROM THIS LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, WHICH, AFTER S.H.I.E.L.D. GETS DONE HERE, WILL BE MORE OR LESS THE TRUTH.


YOU ARE OF COURSE JOKING.
OF COURSE. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE JOKES I'M SO FAMOUS AND BELOVED FOR.


WHAT AGENT BRAND HAS DONE IS INHUMANE, ILLEGAL AND APPALLING.
YEAH, SHE'S A PIP.
FURY--
I'M NOT GONNA SPEAK FOR MY COUNTERPART HERE--
I DON'T--
AND NEITHER IS SHE.
FACT IS, SHE BLEW IT ON MANY LEVELS AND THAT WILL NOT GO UNREMARKED.


BUT SHE'S DEALING WITH A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE THAN ANY OF US.
SHE'S TRYING TO STOP A WAR THAT JUST GOT THAT MUCH CLOSER TO INEVITABLE.


AND SINCE THE ONLY THINGS THAT GOT WRECKED IN THAT LANDING WERE DR. RAO'S WORK AND THE ILLUSTRIOUS AMBASSADOR...
...AND IT'S INTERESTING HOW THAT WORKED OUT...

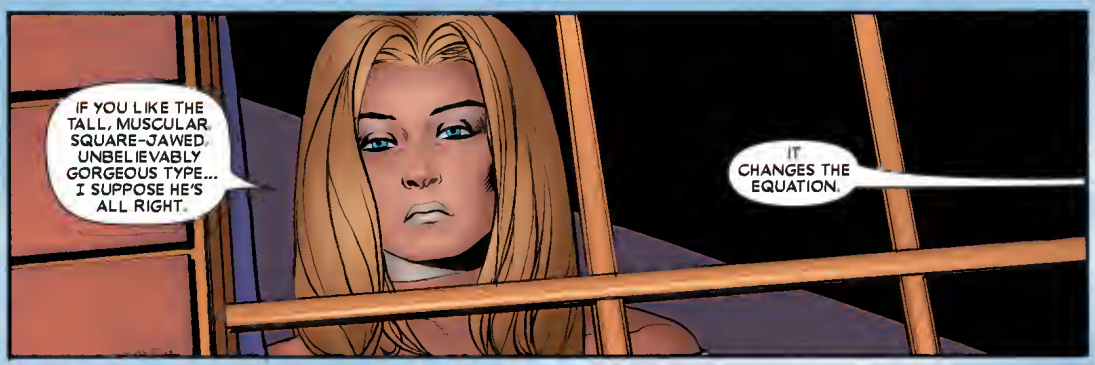

...I'D COUNT MY BLESSINGS AND GO.

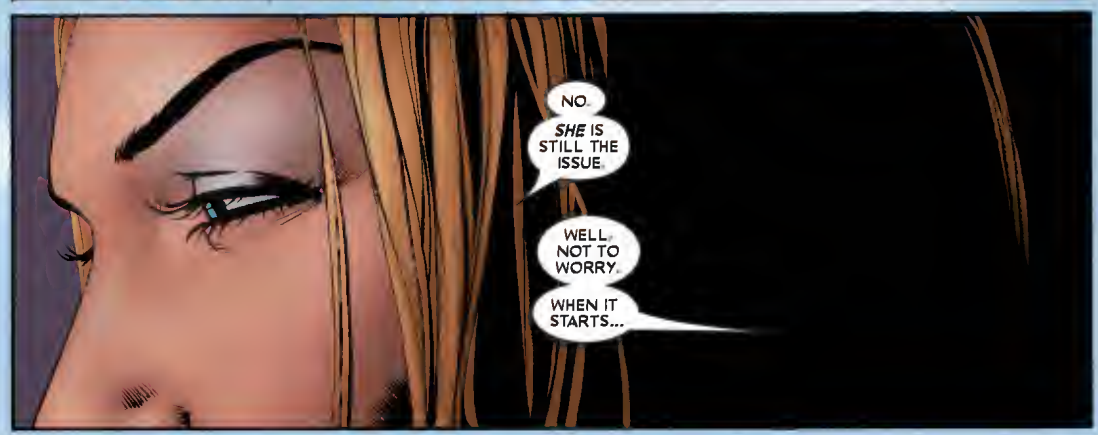

OUR BLESSINGS.
LOGAN DESTROYED A LOT OF DR. RAO'S WORK BUT THAT'S A SETBACK OF MONTHS AT THE MOST.
THE CURE WILL BE OUT THERE, AND IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WE CAN'T POSSIBLY TRUST.
MEANWHILE WE HAVE MUTANT RIOTS BREWING IN EVERY MAJOR CITY OVER THIS CURE. A STUDENT OF OURS HAS BEEN NEUTERED BY IT. AND OH! YES! ONE OF US IS PREDESTINED TO DESTROY A PLANET AND START AN INTERGALACTIC WAR.
I'LL BE BLESSED.
WE GOT PETE.
HELL OF A THING...
BOY'S NAMED RASPUTIN. SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WOULDN'T BE THAT EASY TO KILL.
YOU GONNA USE IT?
THE CURE. YOUR SAMPLE'S STILL COOLING IN--
I KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW.


I HEARD ABOUT THE CURE, IT WAS LIKE THIS GREAT WEIGHT HAD BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS.
I NEVER FELT THAT WEIGHT TILL I FELT IT GONE.
IF ORD HAD TAPPED ME INSTEAD OF THAT POOR KID... MAYBE THIS WOULD ALL BE SIMPLE.
BUT IT'S NOT.
I'VE SEEN SO MUCH SELF-LOATHING, THESE DESPERATE PEOPLE... LOGAN WAS RIGHT.
AND I'M COUNTING ON YOU NEVER TO TELL HIM I SAID THAT...
AN X-MAN DOESN'T QUIT. NOT WITH THE WORLD WATCHING.
I'M NOT SAYING NEVER.
DIDN'T ASK YOU TO.
SO... PETE.
HELL OF A THING...


I LEAVE THE WORLD IN TERRIBLE TURMOIL.
I COME BACK, SAME TURMOIL. NOTHING AT ALL DIFFERENT.
WELL, OUTFITS ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT...
IT IS FUNNY THAT IT'S YOU WHO FINDS ME. DON'T YOU THINK?
NO. I DON'T THINK IT'S FUNNY.
I THINK MAYBE IT'S IMPORTANT.
I THINK IT'S... SOMEHOW...
I THINK IT'S WHY I'M HERE.


HE'S A GOOD LOOKING BOY, ISN'T HE?


IF YOU LIKE THE TALL, MUSCULAR, SQUARE-JAWED, UNBELIEVABLY GORGEOUS TYPE... I SUPPOSE HE'S ALL RIGHT.
IT CHANGES THE EQUATION.


NO.
SHE IS STILL THE ISSUE.
WELL, NOT TO WORRY.
WHEN IT STARTS...


"...WE DEAL WITH HER FIRST."


MARVEL
4
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN
WARREN ELLIS
ADI GRANOV
EXTREMIS
PART 4 of 6
AG
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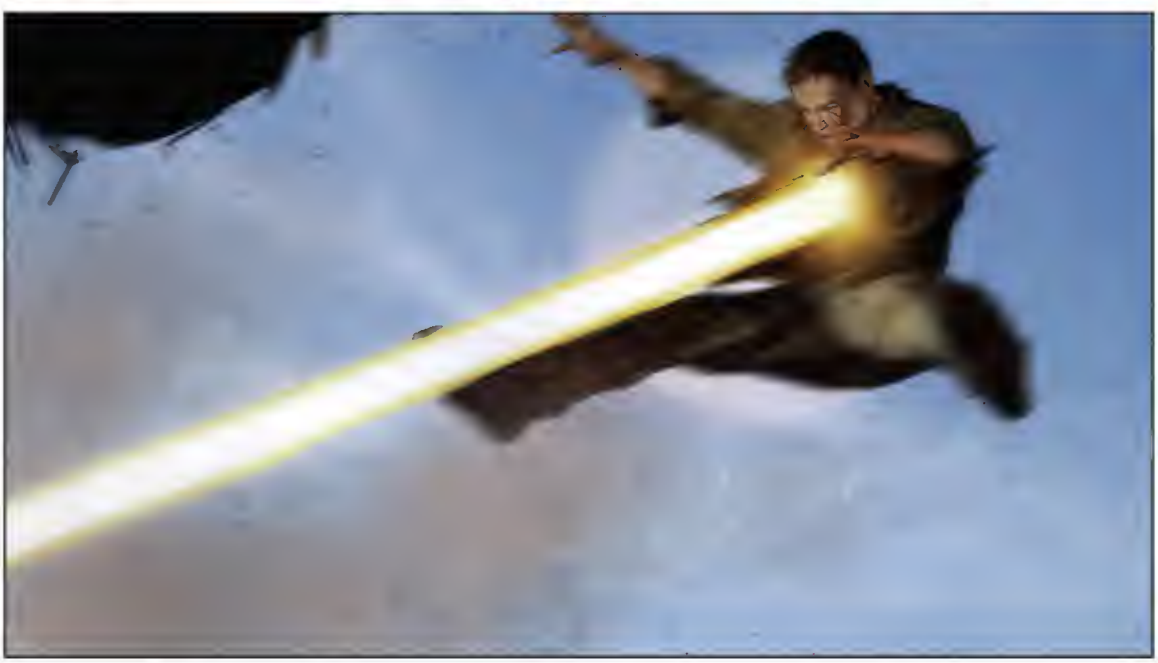


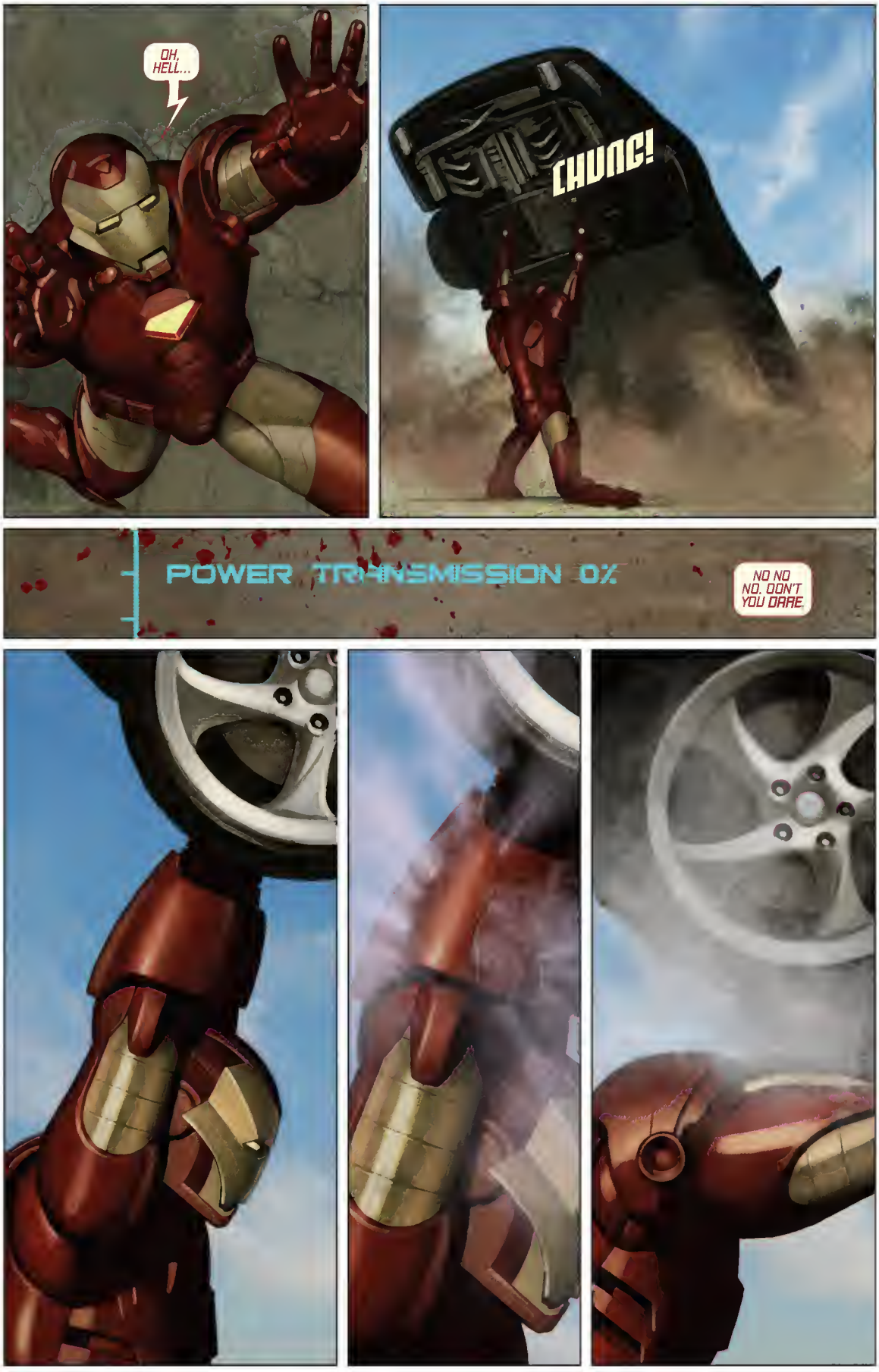
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YOU'RE GOING TO BURST INSIDE THAT SUIT WHEN THIS HITS YOU.
THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO POUR YOU OUT.


POWER DIVERT/CHEST BEAMER




OH, HELL...
CHUNG!
POWER TRANSMISSION 0%
NO NO NO. DON'T YOU DARE.


UFFF
OWW. YOU BASTARD....
DOESN'T MATTER. NOT IMPORTANT.
I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD NOW.
LEAVE THE LITTLE THINGS BEHIND.



AUXILIARY POWER ON/IRON MAN SAFE MODE

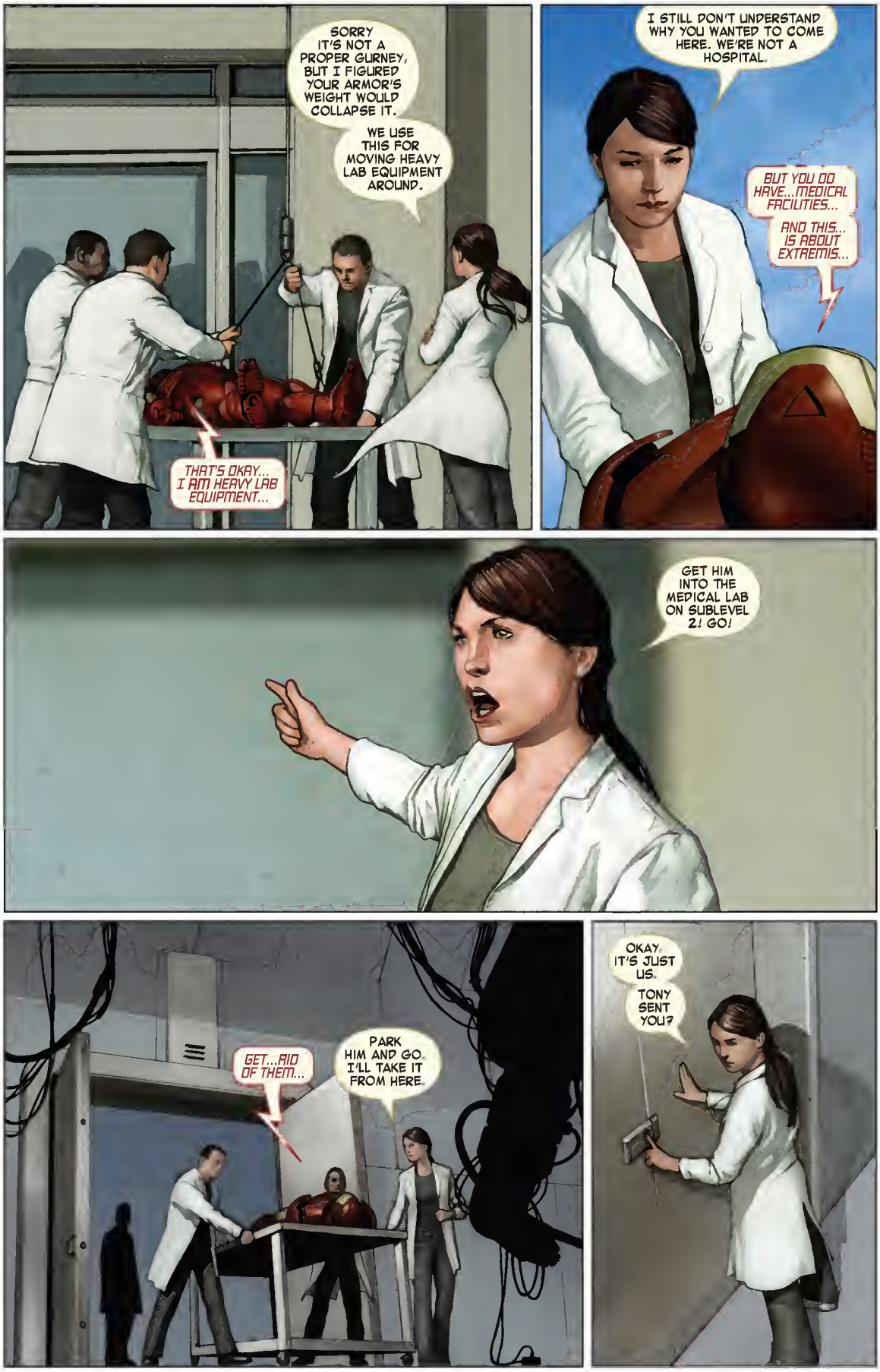




THERMOCOUPLE/HEAT-INDUCTIVE TRANSFER FIELD

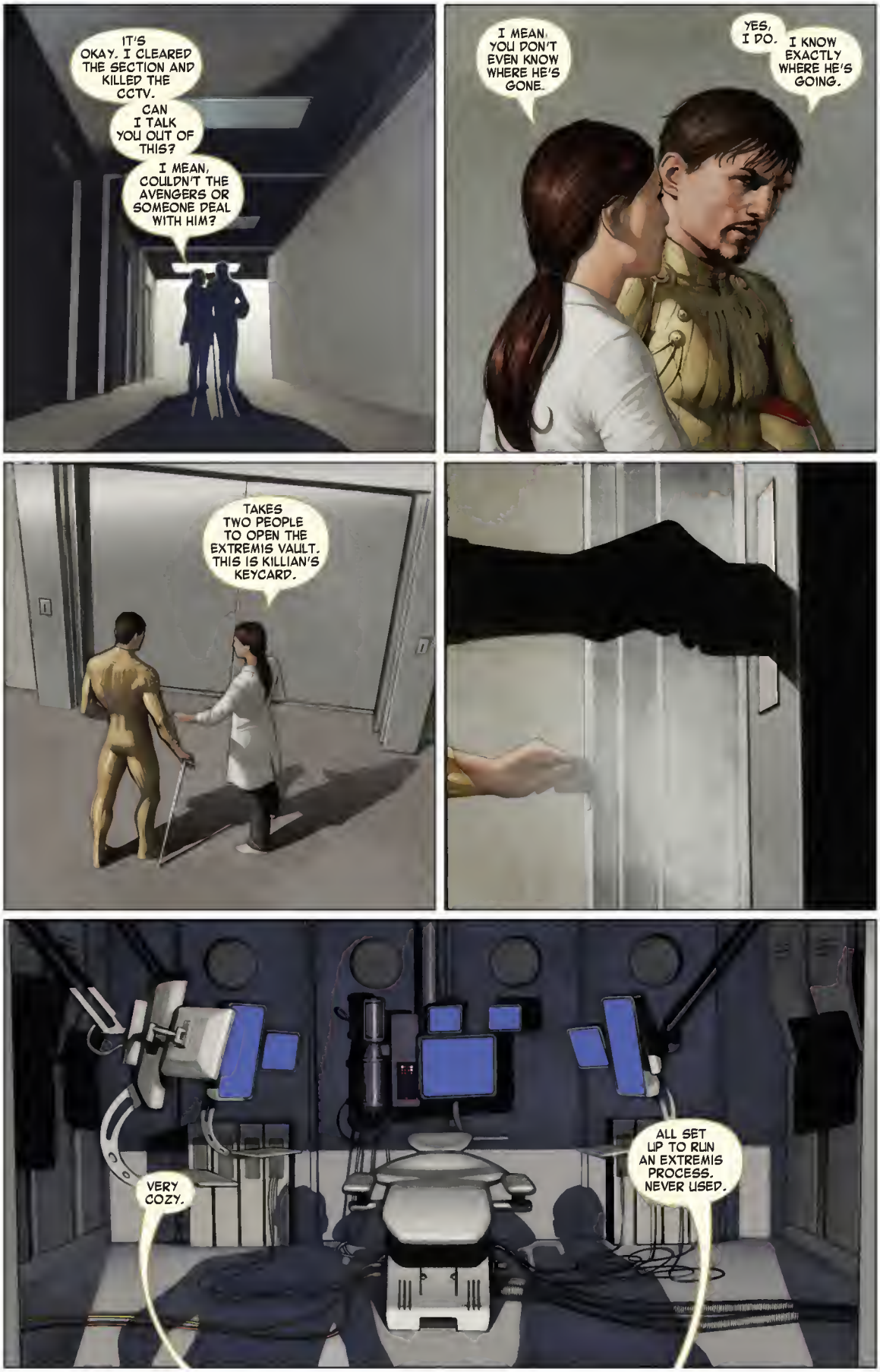

HEAT-POWER TRANSFER SUCCESSFUL
POWER AT 1%
I DON'T FEEL VERY SUCCESSFUL...
IRON MAN TO ALL POINTS: I'M GOING TO BE IMMOBILIZED IN ABOUT A MINUTE AND A HALF.
COUGH
COULD USE SOME *COUGH* HELP.
MEDICAL/SUIT EMERGENCY INTERVENTION SYSTEM AUTO-ACTIVATING
SEEK URGENT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
WELL, THAT'S A HELP.


WHERE... IS HE?
HE TOOK OFF ON FOOT. WE CLOCKED HIM AT THREE HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR MOVING WEST.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO WE CALL STARK, OR THE AVENGERS, OR...?
I'VE... HEH... I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN TO STARK... *COUGH*
USE ONE OF YOUR CHOPPERS AIRLIFT ME TO... FUTUREPHARM...
AND NOT TOO MANY BUMPS IN THE RIDE... I'M BLEEDING INTERNALLY... AND SCRUBBING BLOOD OUT OF THIS THING... IS A PAIN...
POLICE


SORRY IT'S NOT A PROPER GURNEY, BUT I FIGURED YOUR ARMOR'S WEIGHT WOULD COLLAPSE IT.
WE USE THIS FOR MOVING HEAVY LAB EQUIPMENT AROUND.
THAT'S OKAY... I AM HEAVY LAB EQUIPMENT...
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANTED TO COME HERE. WE'RE NOT A HOSPITAL.
BUT YOU DO HAVE...MEDICAL FACILITIES...
AND THIS... IS ABOUT EXTREMIS...
GET HIM INTO THE MEDICAL LAB ON SUBLEVEL 2! GO!
GET...RID OF THEM...
PARK HIM AND GO. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
OKAY. IT'S JUST US.
TONY SENT YOU?


YEAH.
TONY?
NOT SO LOUD... PLEASE...
YOU'RE IRON MAN?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE...?
THAT EXTREMIS PROCESS OF YOURS...IS PRETTY GOOD, YOU KNOW.
OH, NO. HE DID THIS TO YOU?
INCREDIBLE SPEED. MOVED FASTER THAN I COULD OPERATE THE ARMOR.
LIFT THE CHESTPIECE OFF.
DAMN. THIS IS HEAVY...
SAVED MY LIFE. I THINK. I'M PRETTY MESSED UP.
YOU SHOULD BE IN A HOSPITAL.
BOOTS.
YEAH. I HAD TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT...WITH A CAR ON ME.
HOSPITALS... ARE FINE. BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE THING... I NEED.
AND WHAT'S THAT? OH, GOD, TONY, YOUR LEG'S A MESS.
ARMOR... INJECTS ME WITH... PAINKILLERS. I'M FINE.
AND I'LL BE EVEN BETTER... ONCE YOU SHOOT ME UP...
...WITH A RECONFIGURED EXTREMIS DOSE.
COUGH
YOU'VE GONE INSANE.


HE'S A BIOLOGICAL COMBAT MACHINE...AND I'M JUST A MAN IN AN IRON SUIT.
I'VE SPENT MONTHS IN MY GARAGE TRYING TO INCREASE THE ARMOR'S RESPONSE TIME. AND IT'S STILL. NOT. FAST. ENOUGH.
I NEED TO WIRE THE ARMOR DIRECTLY INTO MY BRAIN. EXTREMIS COULD DO THAT.
MAYBE WE COULD WORK IN SOME KIND OF TIVO THING WHILE WE'RE AT IT. MY COMPANY BOARD WOULD LOVE BRAIN TELEVISION.
EXTREMIS IS UNTESTED EVEN IN ITS CURRENT CONFIGURATION--
SEEMS TO WORK FINE. JUST LOOK AT MY FACE.
--AND THE GUY WAS PRESUMABLY HEALTHY WHEN HE TOOK THE POSE. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PUSHED THROUGH A WOODCHIPPER.
GAK!
EXTREMIS WORKS THROUGH THE HEALING CENTER, YOU SAID.
IT'LL FIX ME WHILE IT'S WORKING.
I DON'T NEED THE POWERS. IF ANYTHING, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SIMPLIFYING THE PAYLOAD.
I NEED TO BE THE SUIT. INSTEAD OF GROWING NEW ORGANS...I NEED TO GROW NEW CONNECTIONS...
THIS THING'S GOTTEN TOO HEAVY. AND TOO SLOW.
I'M TALKING ABOUT SPEED OF DEPLOYMENT... SPEED OF OPERATION...
TONY...
THANK GOD FOR PAINKILLERS, EH?
GET A COMPUTER IN HERE...


IT'S OKAY. I CLEARED THE SECTION AND KILLED THE CCTV.
CAN I TALK YOU OUT OF THIS?
I MEAN, COULDN'T THE AVENGERS OR SOMEONE DEAL WITH HIM?
I MEAN, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE'S GONE.
YES, I DO.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE'S GOING.
TAKES TWO PEOPLE TO OPEN THE EXTREMIS VAULT. THIS IS KILLIAN'S KEYCARD.
VERY COZY.
ALL SET UP TO RUN AN EXTREMIS PROCESS. NEVER USED.


WELL, IT WILL BE.
BZZT!
EXCUSE ME.
MAYA HANSEN.
OH. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
HOW MUCH DO YOU SPEND ON PLANES? A PACKAGE FROM CONEY ISLAND HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. MAKE YOURSELF... COMFORTABLE, I GUESS.
ONE OF THE ITEMS WILL BE A CASE. BRING IT BACK?
Iron Man
Hud Playback

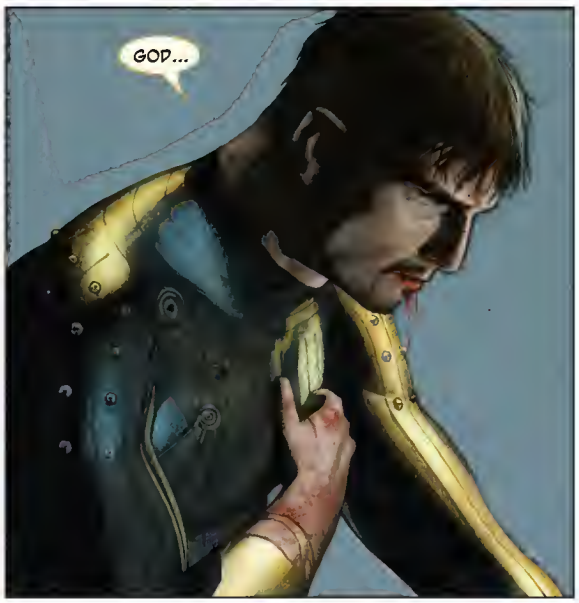







MD
Annapolis
Washington D.C
DEL
Richmond
Williamsburg
Hampton


I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING.


GOD...


;COUGH;
JEEZ...
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?

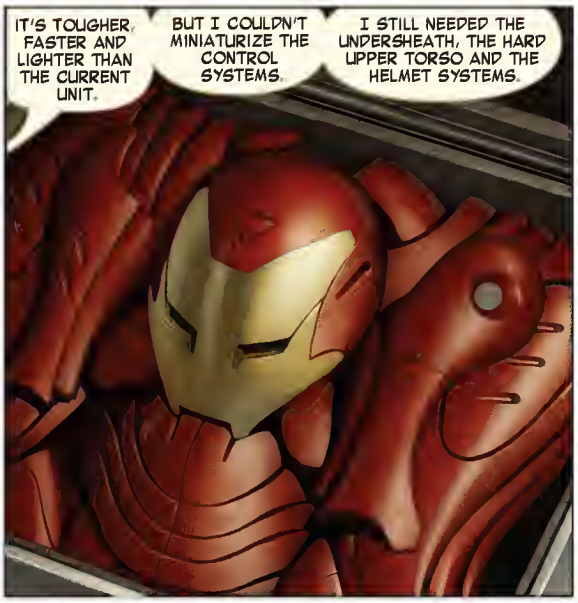

NOTHING.
I COME OUT HERE TO SMOKE, OKAY? NO ONE AROUND TO BUG ME OR SAY NO.
=COUGH=
IT'S OKAY. I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH.
KEEP GOING. I COME OUT HERE TO BE ON MY OWN.
THE CRAP I GET IN TOWN, I NEED SOME TIME ALONE.
YOU HAVE TROUBLE HERE?
I LIKE BLACK CLOTHES. I LIKE A CERTAIN KIND OF MUSIC. I HAVE A VOCABULARY OF MORE THAN TEN WORDS. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YEAH. I WAS DIFFERENT WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, TOO.
I SWEAR. WEAR A LONG COAT AND EVERYONE THINKS I'M GOING TO SHOOT UP THE SCHOOL.
I'M ON SUSPENSION. WROTE A STORY IN CLASS ABOUT ZOMBIES ATTACKING THE TOWN.
THEY CALLED IT "TERRORISTIC WRITING."
THIS COUNTRY'S GONE INSANE.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN.
WHAT I DON'T GET IS, COPS AND FEDS CAN OUTRIGHT KILL US, AND IF WE EVEN THINK ABOUT DEFENDING OURSELVES, THAT'S TERRORISM.
SEEN MY T-SHIRT?


IS THAT HOW YOU SEE AMERICA?
SURE.
YOU KNOW, THE KLAN DID GOOD THINGS TOO. THEY DEFENDED CHRISTIAN LAW IN A LOT OF PLACES.
I'M SO SICK OF HEARING ABOUT GOD ALL THE TIME. I'M SICK OF HAVING TO, LIKE, PASS A RELIGIOUS TEST JUST TO LIVE HERE.
THE KLAN LYNCHED PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T LOOK LIKE REGULAR WHITE FOLKS.
REGULAR WHITE FOLKS BUILT THIS COUNTRY. WITHOUT GOVERNMENT OR SPIES OR REGULATIONS OR PEOPLE WITH BADGES WHO KILL YOUR FAMILY FOR FUN.
YEAH. EXCEPT REGULAR WHITE FOLKS DID ALL THAT TOO.
DON'T SAY THAT.
IT ALL WENT WRONG. I'M GOING TO FIX IT.
I'VE GOT THIS STUFF INSIDE ME, SEE? FROM THE FUTURE THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE. AND I'M USING IT TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK.
BACK TO LYNCHINGS AND GIVING SMALLPOX-INFECTED BLANKETS TO THE DIFFERENT-LOOKING PEOPLE?
YOU'RE AS BAD AS THEM. LEAVE ME ALONE.


THIS IS IT?


YEAH. EXPERIMENTAL UNIT.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET THE IRON MAN BACK TO A COLLAPSIBLE MODEL FOR YEARS.
BUT THE MORE I ADDED INTO IT... IT OVERCOMPLICATED. YOU KNOW?

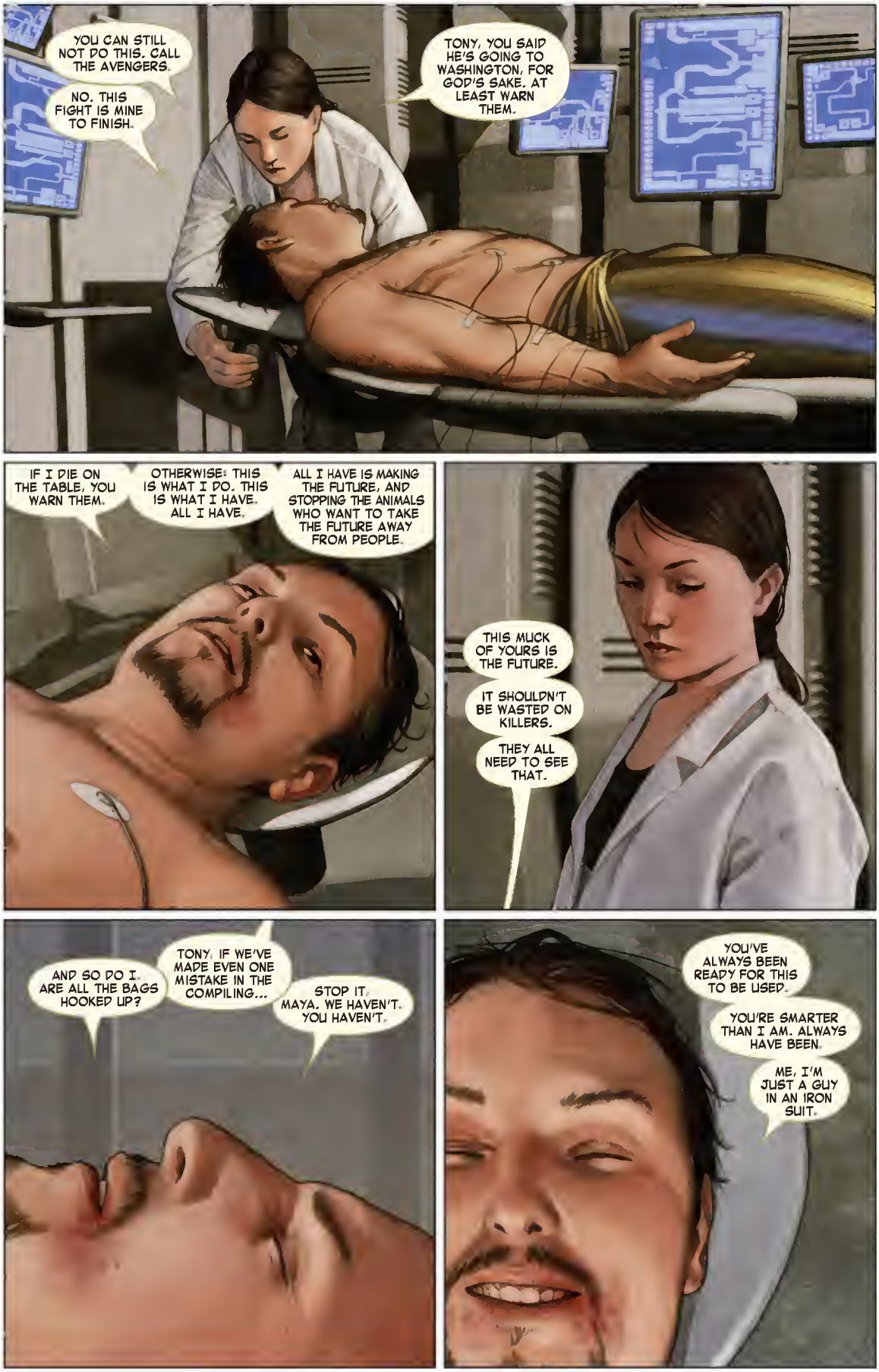

THIS VERSION IS ALL MADE OUT OF MEMORY METALS.
AN ELECTRIC CHARGE MAKES IT SNAP INTO SHAPE, AND THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE COLLIMATES INTO SUPER-HARD PLANES.
MOST OF THE INTERIOR ELEMENTS COMPRESS TO ABOUT 90% OF THEIR WORKING VOLUME.


IT'S TOUGHER, FASTER AND LIGHTER THAN THE CURRENT UNIT.
BUT I COULDN'T MINIATURIZE THE CONTROL SYSTEMS.
I STILL NEEDED THE UNDERSHEATH, THE HARD UPPER TORSO AND THE HELMET SYSTEMS.


WE CAN RECONFIGURE EXTREMIS TO DO ALL THOSE JOBS.
MAKE ME THE IRON MAN INSIDE AND OUT.


OR KILL YOU.
THIS IS OUR LAST LIVE DOSE.

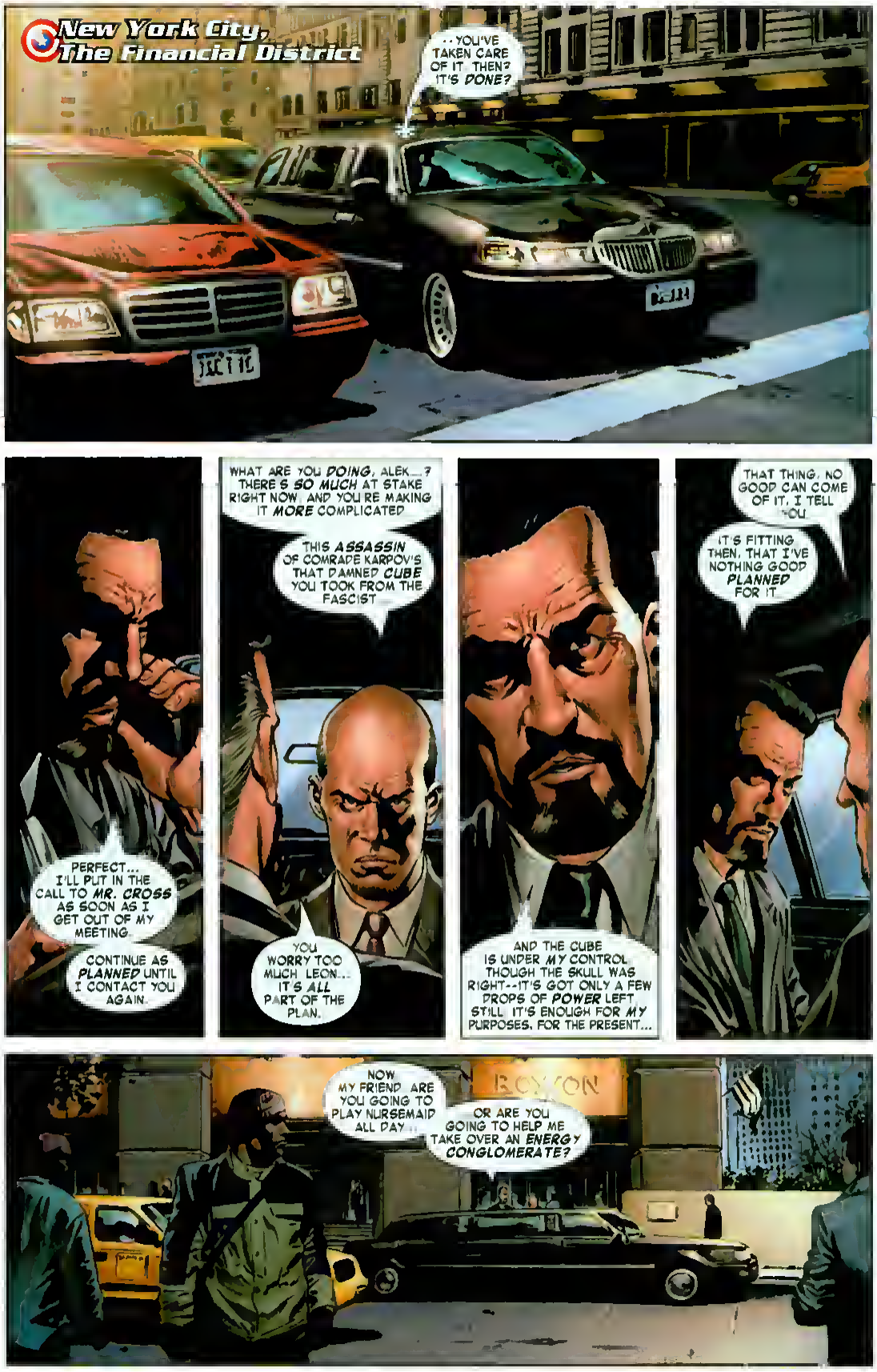

AND THIS IS THE EXTREMIS COMPILER.
WE HAVE TO INSTRUCT IT WHAT TO DO TO YOU. THE COMPUTER WILL RECOMPILE THE DOSE-- REPROGRAM WHAT IT DOES.
ONE MISTAKE AND IT *WILL* KILL YOU.
WELL, LET'S NOT MAKE ANY MISTAKES.
YOU BETTER TYPE. I'M DOWN TO ONE HAND--
TONY
THE REST OF THE PACKAGE--THE NUTRIENTS AND SUSPENDED METALS-- YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH THEM?
TONY, THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL YOU'RE GOING TO SURVIVE AN EXTREMIS DOSE.
I HAVE TO.
OR MY INTERNAL INJURIES ARE GOING TO KILL ME.


YOU CAN STILL NOT DO THIS. CALL THE AVENGERS.
NO. THIS FIGHT IS MINE TO FINISH.
TONY, YOU SAID HE'S GOING TO WASHINGTON, FOR GOD'S SAKE. AT LEAST WARN THEM.
IF I DIE ON THE TABLE, YOU WARN THEM.
OTHERWISE: THIS IS WHAT I DO. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE. ALL I HAVE.
ALL I HAVE IS MAKING THE FUTURE, AND STOPPING THE ANIMALS WHO WANT TO TAKE THE FUTURE AWAY FROM PEOPLE.
THIS MUCK OF YOURS IS THE FUTURE.
IT SHOULDN'T BE WASTED ON KILLERS.
THEY ALL NEED TO SEE THAT.
AND SO DO I. ARE ALL THE BAGS HOOKED UP?
TONY. IF WE'VE MADE EVEN ONE MISTAKE IN THE COMPILING...
STOP IT, MAYA. WE HAVEN'T. YOU HAVEN'T.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN READY FOR THIS TO BE USED.
YOU'RE SMARTER THAN I AM. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.
ME, I'M JUST A GUY IN AN IRON SUIT.


BUT I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE MORE. SAL SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BENCH-TESTING THE FUTURE?
TEST PILOT FOR THE FUTURE.
FUNNY: THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I'VE HAD TO WORK AGAINST THE CLOCK FOR THE IRON MAN TO SAVE MY LIFE.
KK
KKKAHHKK
AAAOWW
HHAHHKKGG
HRUP


TONY?
TONY?


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New York City, The Financial District
...YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF IT. THEN? IT'S DONE?
PERFECT... I'LL PUT IN THE CALL TO MR. CROSS AS SOON AS I GET OUT OF MY MEETING.
CONTINUE AS PLANNED UNTIL I CONTACT YOU AGAIN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALEK...? THERE'S SO MUCH AT STAKE RIGHT NOW, AND YOU'RE MAKING IT MORE COMPLICATED
THIS ASSASSIN OF COMRADE KARPOV'S THAT DAMNED CUBE YOU TOOK FROM THE FASCIST
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, LEON... IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN.
AND THE CUBE IS UNDER MY CONTROL. THOUGH THE SKULL WAS RIGHT--IT'S GOT ONLY A FEW DROPS OF POWER LEFT. STILL, IT'S ENOUGH FOR MY PURPOSES. FOR THE PRESENT...
THAT THING. NO GOOD CAN COME OF IT, I TELL YOU.
IT'S FITTING, THEN, THAT I'VE NOTHING GOOD PLANNED FOR IT.
NOW MY FRIEND, ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY NURSEMAID ALL DAY...
OR ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME TAKE OVER AN ENERGY CONGLOMERATE?
BOXXON

During the dark days of the early 1940s, a covert military experiment turned Steve Rogers into America's first Super-Soldier, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

Throughout the war, Cap and his partner Bucky fought alongside our infantry and with a group of heroes known as the Invaders. In the closing months of WWII, Captain America and Bucky were both presumed dead in an explosion over the Arctic Ocean.

Decades later, a figure was found trapped in ice, and Captain America was revived. Having slept through more than half of the 20th century, Steve Rogers awakened to a world he never imagined, a world where war had moved from the battlefield to the city streets...A world in dire need of...

CAPTAIN AMERICA

OUT OF TIME Part 4



Aleksander Lukin, a rogue Soviet general, uses a cybernetic assassin to kill the Red Skull and steal from him a slightly damaged Cosmic Cube.

S.H.I.E.L.D. discovers the Skull's body and brings Captain America into the investigation. While Cap is reluctant to believe the Skull is actually dead, his doubts fade as the pieces fall into place—especially when Mother Night, one of the Skull's old lieutenants, and an A.I.M. splinter group are found dead in the London Underground where they had been waiting to detonate a Weapon of Mass Destruction that would help charge the Cosmic Cube. Now, though they don't know his identity, S.H.I.E.L.D. and Cap know that someone has both the Cube and the means to fill it with power. In the midst of all this, Cap's mind has begun to play tricks on him, as old memories come to the surface that make him question some of his wartime missions.

Unbeknownst to all our heroes, one of Cap's old partners, Jack Monroe, the Nomad, has been brutally murdered by the same assassin who killed the Red Skull.

Writer	Artist	Flashback Art	Colorist	Letterer
Ed Brubaker	Steve Epting	Michael Lark	Frank D'Armata	VC's Randy Gentile

Production	Assistant Editors	Editor	Editor In Chief	Publisher
Tom Valente	Schmidt, Wiley & Lazer	Tom Brevoort	Joe Quesada	Dan Buckley

Captain America created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby

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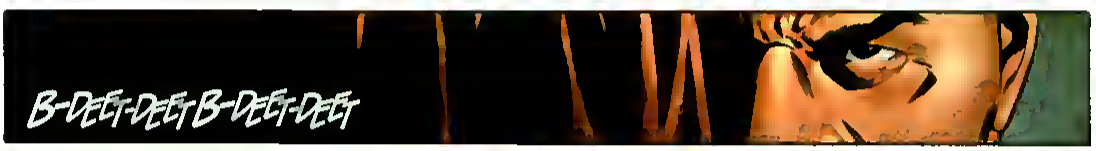
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Brooklyn,
Later That Same Morning



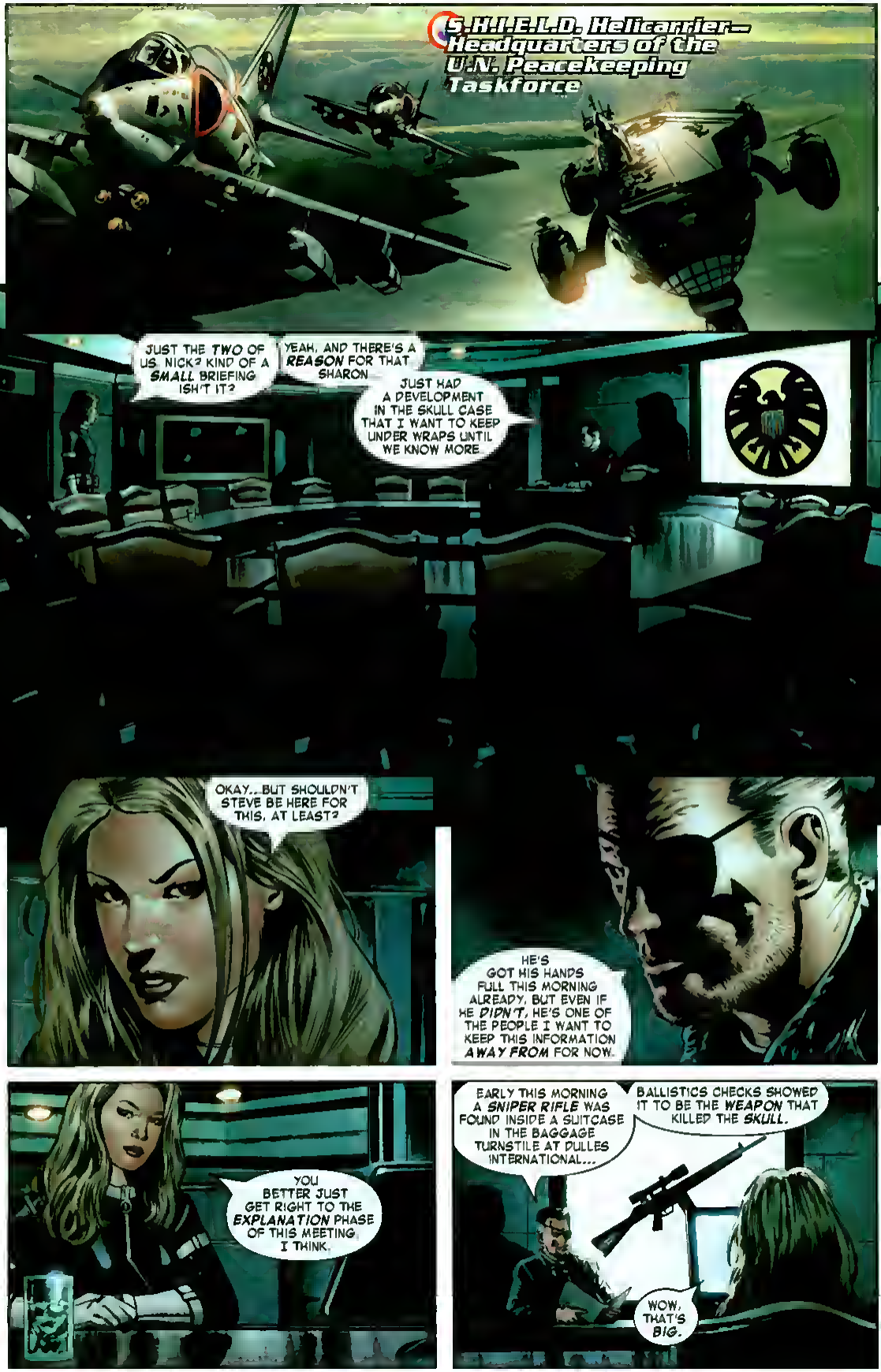

EVERLA

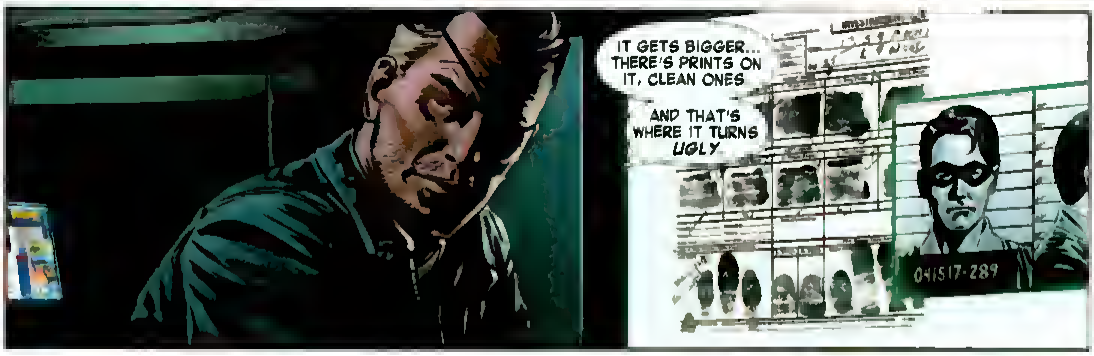

B-DEET-DEET B-DEET-DEET


WHAT IS IT SHARON?


SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, ROGERS. I KNOW I'M GOOD-LOOKIN' BUT I'M NO AGENT 13.
FURY? WHAT'S GOING ON? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO SHARON?


SHE'S FINE. I JUST GOT A CALL FROM C.I.D. THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT, AND HER SECURITY CLEARANCE DOESN'T COVER THIS ONE.
WHAT IS IT?
I'M SENDING THROUGH IMAGES NOW...
ARE THEY EXPECTING ME?
THEY ARE. WE'D FLY YOU IN, BUT THIS IS A U.S. MILITARY MATTER SO I'VE GOTTA KEEP S.H.I.E.L.D. AT ARM'S LENGTH UNLESS THEY INVITE US IN.
I CAN FIND MY OWN WAY.
YOU THINK THIS TIES INTO THE SKULL'S DEATH SOMEHOW?
I HATE TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS. BUT THE TIMING IS A BIG COINCIDENCE IF IT'S NOT. WATCH YOUR BACK DOWN THERE, SOLDIER.
TONY, IT'S STEVE.
SORRY TO CALL SO EARLY. BUT I NEED YOUR FASTEST JET WAITING AT LAGUARDIA IN TEN MINUTES.

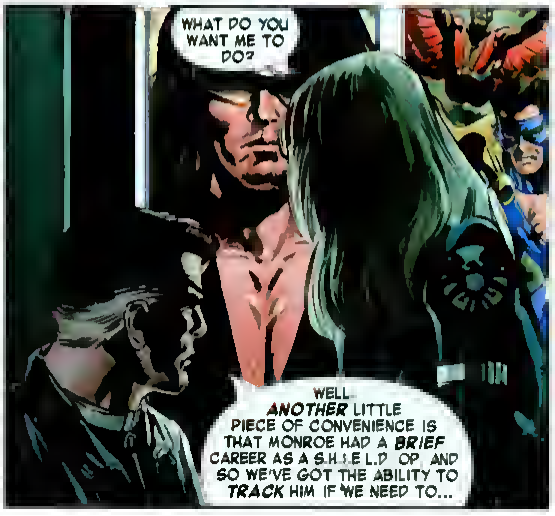

S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier—Headquarters of the U.N. Peacekeeping Taskforce
JUST THE TWO OF US, NICK? KIND OF A SMALL BRIEFING ISH'T IT?
YEAH, AND THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT SHARON.
JUST HAD A DEVELOPMENT IN THE SKULL CASE THAT I WANT TO KEEP UNDER WRAPS UNTIL WE KNOW MORE.
OKAY...BUT SHOULDN'T STEVE BE HERE FOR THIS, AT LEAST?
HE'S GOT HIS HANDS FULL THIS MORNING ALREADY, BUT EVEN IF HE DIDN'T, HE'S ONE OF THE PEOPLE I WANT TO KEEP THIS INFORMATION AWAY FROM FOR NOW.
YOU BETTER JUST GET RIGHT TO THE EXPLANATION PHASE OF THIS MEETING, I THINK.
EARLY THIS MORNING A SNIPER RIFLE WAS FOUND INSIDE A SUITCASE IN THE BAGGAGE TURNSTILE AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL...
BALLISTICS CHECKS SHOWED IT TO BE THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE SKULL.
WOW. THAT'S BIG.


IT GETS BIGGER... THERE'S PRINTS ON IT, CLEAN ONES.
AND THAT'S WHERE IT TURNS UGLY.
041517-289


THE PRINTS BELONG TO JACK MONROE, WHO I BELIEVE YOU'VE MET.
A LONG TIME AGO...HE WAS THE BUCKY FROM THE '50s. THE CRAZY ONE.
RIGHT ..EXCEPT WHEN YOU WERE OFF THE BOOKS, S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS ABLE TO CURE HIM AND PUT HIM BACK INTO SOCIETY...
CAP HELPED HIM MAKE THE TRANSITION AND TOOK HIM ON AS A PARTNER FOR A WHILE. HE EVEN TOOK UP CAP'S ONE-TIME IDENTITY NOMAD.


BUT JACK DIDN'T HAVE A SMOOTH ROAD. HE'S GOT A TEMPER, AND HE'S BEEN PUSHED OVER THE EDGE MORE THAN ONCE...
AT ONE POINT, HE WAS EVEN BRAINWASHED INTO BECOMING SOME CHARACTER CALLED SCOURGE...KILLED A FEW COSTUMED CRIMINALS.


WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM FOR A FEW YEARS, THOUGH... UNTIL NOW, WHEN HIS FINGERPRINTS TURN UP ON OUR MURDER WEAPON.
IT IS... JUST LIKE THAT PHONE TIP CALLING IN THE SKULL'S BODY.
A LITTLE CONVENIENT, ISN'T IT?


WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
WELL... ANOTHER LITTLE PIECE OF CONVENIENCE IS THAT MONROE HAD A BRIEF CAREER AS A S.H.I.E.L.D. OP, AND SO WE'VE GOT THE ABILITY TO TRACK HIM IF WE NEED TO...


TECHNOLOGY'S *PRIMITIVE* BY TODAY'S STANDARDS, BUT THERE'S A G.P.S. TRACKER IN HIS SHOULDER...NOT THAT HE *KNOWS* ABOUT IT. THOUGHT HE WAS JUST GETTING *VACCINATED*.
YOU SNEAKY LITTLE--
THAT'S MY *JOB DESCRIPTION*, ISN'T IT?
Philadelphia
ANYWAY, LIKE I SAID, THE DEVICE IS A DINOSAUR. BUT WE CAN GET HIM TO WITHIN A FEW *MILES*.
YOU WANT ME TO *FIND* HIM?
I DO...BUT DON'T MOVE ON HIM. JUST GET CLOSE AND KEEP HIM UNDER WATCH.
IF HE'S OUR GUY, HE'S GOT TO BE WORKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE, AND IF HE'S *NOT* OUR GUY, THEN SOMEONE IS PLAYING WITH US...EITHER WAY I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT *WHO*.
I'LL HAVE THE G.P.S. TRANSFERRED TO YOUR HANDHELD EN ROUTE.
RIGHT. I'LL CALL IN WHEN I'VE GOT SOMETHING.
COLONEL FURY? I'VE GOT THE *SURVEILLANCE* TAPES FROM DULLES FOR YOU.
GREAT. ANY PROGRESS ON *IDENTIFYING* THE BODY THEY FOUND IN LONDON YET?
NOTHING SO FAR, SIR. *INTERPOL* IS STALLING US FOR SOME REASON.
RIGHT. GET THEIR DIRECTOR ON THE HORN. I'VE BEEN NEEDING TO SCREAM AT SOMEONE ALL MORNING ANYWAY...


Virginia—Arlington National Cemetery
JEFFERY MACE
DID THEY TELL YOU WHO THESE MEN WERE?
WAR HEROES ..BUT WHEN THEY SAID YOU SHOULD BE CONTACTED, I ASSUMED IT WAS A BIT MORE THAN THAT.
SO... WHO WERE THEY?
THEY WERE CAPTAIN AMERICA.


WILLIAM NASLUND ORIGINALLY WENT BY THE NAME THE SPIRIT OF '76. HE WAS THE LONE AMERICAN IN A GROUP OF BRITISH HEROES DURING THE WAR.
THE INVADERS AND I HAD A RUN-IN WITH THEM ONCE. THE DETAILS OF WHICH ARE PROBABLY BETTER LEFT UNSAID...
BUT EVEN AFTER THAT DEBACLE, AFTER HIS TEAM BROKE UP, NASLUND CONTINUED FIGHTING FOR THE ALLIES
I HAD A LOT OF RESPECT FOR HIM. RESPECT HE EARNED


JEFF MACE WAS KNOWN AS THE *PATRIOT* BACK THEN
SPENT THE WAR YEARS ON THE *HOME FRONT*, FIGHTING NAZI SPIES AND DISSIDENTS
HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF MY PARTNER BUCKY BARNES
HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN OVERSEAS IN THE TRENCHES BUT HE SAVED A LOT OF AMERICAN LIVES— INCLUDING *MINE*, ONCE


I'M SORRY YOU...UH ...YOU SAID THEY WERE BOTH CAPTAIN AMERICA?
YES... AFTER ME.
WHEN BUCKY AND I WERE BOTH M.I.A. PRESUMED DEAD... THE WAR WAS STILL ON.
THE TIDE HAD TURNED, BUT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT DIDN'T WANT OUR GI'S LOSING FAITH WHEN THEY HEARD RUMORS OF MY DEATH.
SO NASLUND AND A BOY NAMED FRED DAVIS TOOK OUR PLACES.
OF COURSE DAVIS WAS YEARS TOO YOUNG TO FOOL ANYONE. BUCKY WAS NEARLY TWENTY-ONE BY THE TIME WE DISAPPEARED... BUT NO ONE NOTICED.
PEOPLE BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO.
YES, THEY DO.
PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS BURIED DOWN THIS WAY?
YEAH. YOU HAVE TO WALK PAST THIS AREA TO GET THERE. ACTUALLY.
THAT'S APPROPRIATE.
WHY?
BECAUSE THESE MEN SAVED HIM DURING HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN FOR THE SENATE.

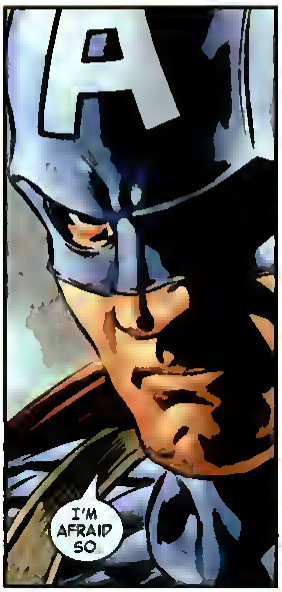

WILLIAM NASLUND DIED SAVING HIM DIED WEARING MY UNIFORM
THAT'S HOW JEFF MACE BECAME THE NEXT CAPTAIN AMERICA
HE FINISHED THE JOB NASLUND STARTED THAT DAY, AND BECAUSE OF THEM, KENNEDY LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO BECOME PRESIDENT
KENNEDY
FOR SENATE
LONG ENOUGH TO CHANGE THIS COUNTRY FOR THE BETTER
VOTE KENNEDY

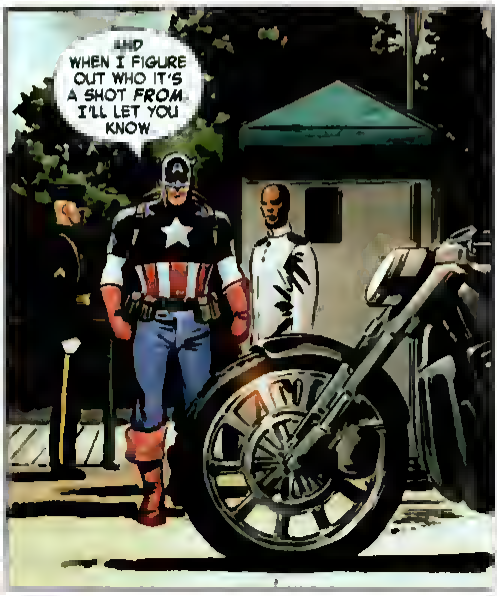

I WISH I'D BEEN THERE TO SEE IT...THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, THE RACE TO THE MOON.
YOU'RE *LUCKY* TO HAVE LIVED THEN LIEUTENANT KELLER.
I WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN 1973, SIR.


REALLY?
YES, SIR... SORRY.


SO, UH, ANY IDEAS *WHY* SOMEONE WOULD *VANDALIZE* THESE MEN'S GRAVES? NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WHO THEY *WERE*, EXCEPT FOR TOP LEVEL BRASS, RIGHT?
YES, ALL THIS WOULD'VE BEEN *HIGHLY CLASSIFIED*.


SO THEN, THIS IS A SHOT AT *YOU*, RIGHT?


I'M AFRAID SO.


AND WHEN I FIGURE OUT WHO IT'S A SHOT *FROM*, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.


DESECRATING GRAVES... WHO BESIDES THE SKULL WOULD GO THAT LOW?
OR IS THIS JUST MORE OF HIS FINAL ORDERS BEING CARRIED OUT? LIKE LONDON AND PARIS...
NO. IF IT WAS THE SKULL, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT BUCKY'S HEADSTONE ALONE... SO, WHO--
--WHO VILL IT BE TO DIE FIRST, HERR CAPTAIN?
WHO VILL SIT BY WHILE HIS COMRADE SCREAMS HIS LAST I VONDER?
YARRR!!

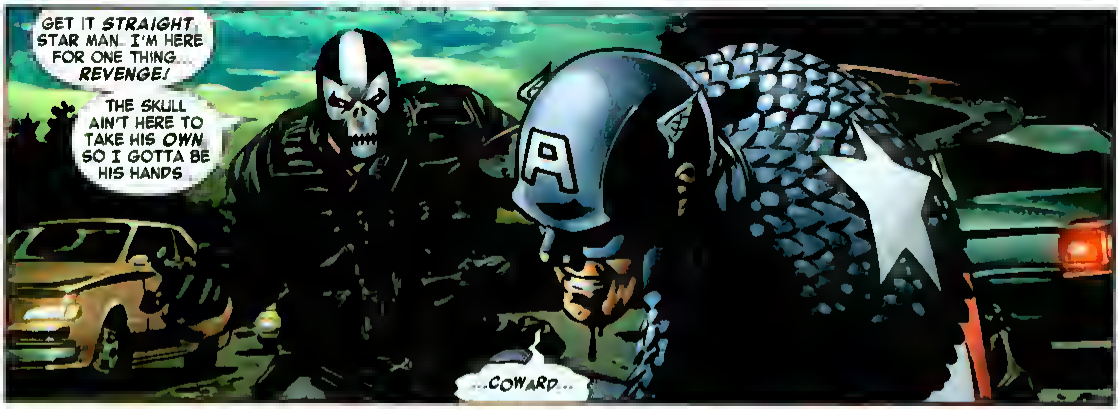

WHAT'S...WHAT IS THAT? WHY WOULD I--
BLAM BLAM
SHOTS FIRED. GET IT TOGETHER ROGERS...
SOMEONE'S SETTING YOU UP--
CROSSBONES...!!!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM


...HE DID THIS?
OR PERHAPS I WILL TAKE ZIS ONE'S EYES INSTEAD LIKE YOU TOOK MY FACE FROM ME...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH ZAT?
NOOO--
--OOO!
--WRONG WITH YOU? SCREAMIN LIKE SOME BABY!
I'M JUST GETTIN STARTED, PAL BETTER SAVE SOME OF THAT...

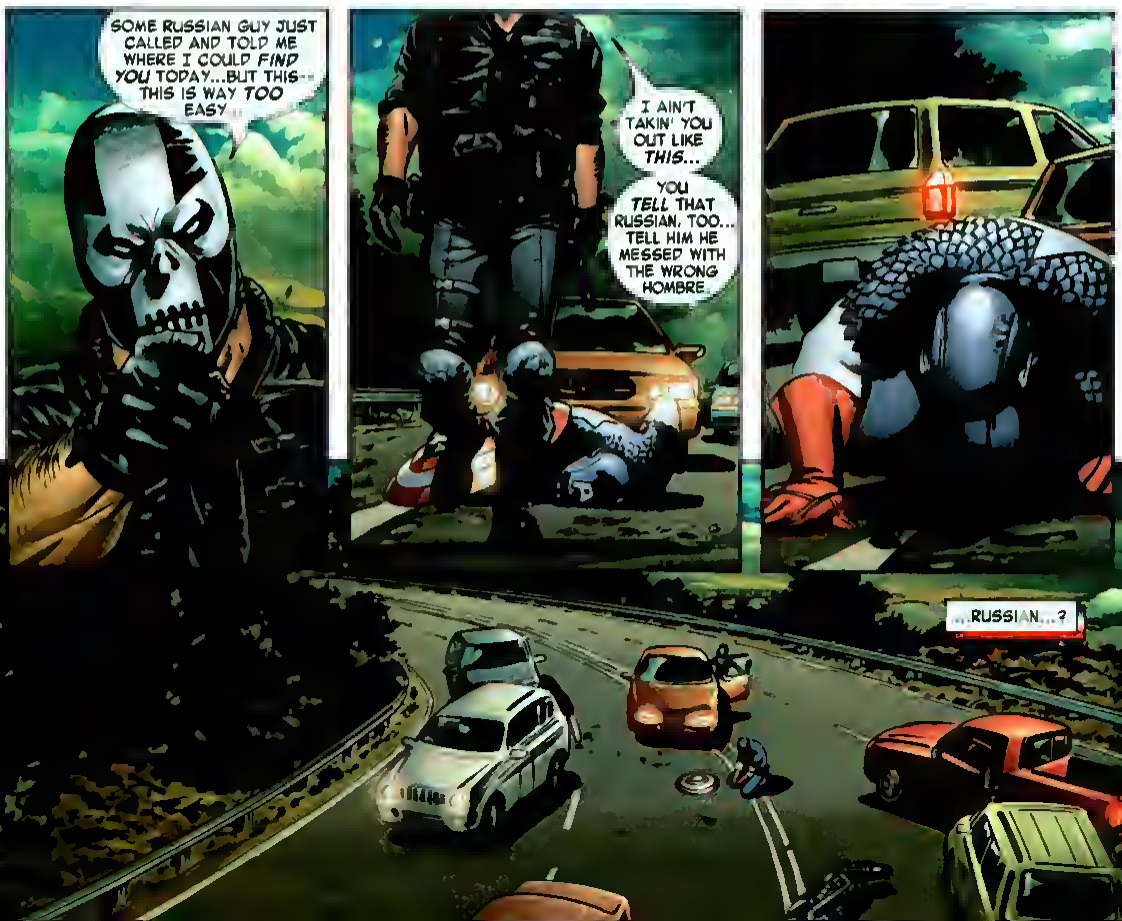

STAY HERE, STEVE...STAY IN THIS FIGHT.
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
HA-HA-HA!
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM HIM, ZEMO, YOU SICK...
WHAT ARE THESE MEMORIES?
SOMEONE... SOMEONE'S GETTING INSIDE MY HEAD...
AH!
BWAHA-HA-
HA!


CAN'T KEEP THEM...OUT...
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
NEVER GOING TO WIN THIS FIGHT... CAN'T FOCUS...
BARELY DEFENDING MYSELF...
KRAK!


NO...WHAT WAS THAT? THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED...BUT...
NO. DON'T LET THIS...
OWF!
THIS IS PATHETIC...
YOU'RE PATHETIC!
...YOU'RE THE COWARD...HAS TO CHEAT...
...HAS TO... DEFACE GRAVE MARKERS...
WHAT? WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY TO ME?
UNH!


GET IT STRAIGHT, STAR MAN. I'M HERE FOR ONE THING... REVENGE!
THE SKULL AIN'T HERE TO TAKE HIS OWN SO I GOTTA BE HIS HANDS...
...COWARD...


AHH! DAMN IT!
FREAKIN' SON OF @*&#%...
...I DIDN'T GO TO NO GRAVEYARD!
UNHH!


SOME RUSSIAN GUY JUST CALLED AND TOLD ME WHERE I COULD FIND YOU TODAY...BUT THIS-- THIS IS WAY TOO EASY...
I AIN'T TAKIN' YOU OUT LIKE THIS...
YOU TELL THAT RUSSIAN, TOO... TELL HIM HE MESSED WITH THE WRONG HOMBRE.
...RUSSIAN...?


Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
LATE THAT NIGHT...
--CAN YOU TRIANGULATE THAT SIGNAL NOW, CONTROL?
NOT MUCH MORE THAN WE ALREADY HAVE... YOU SHOULD BE WITHIN A BLOCK OF HIM FROM WHAT I CAN TELL.
SURE. IT JUST TOOK ME ALL DAY. AGENT 13 OUT.
Okay, Sharon... this is where all that spy training kicks in, right?
If I were an ex-sidekick gone psycho, where would I be...?
Somewhere with a decent view of approaching cops and Feds. Right.
Broken lock... Oooh, this is too easy.


Easy, girl... remember, Fury said just get an eyeball and then back off.
AHHH!
WRONG DOOR.
WHU--?
CRACK
To Be Continued...

MARVEL KNIGHTS®

MARVEL PSR 59 439

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • ALEX MALEEV

DAREDEVIL®

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



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ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND, BUT HIS OTHER FOUR SENSES FUNCTION WITH SUPERHUMAN SHARPNESS AND A RADAR SENSE. WITH AMAZING FIGHTING SKILLS HE STALKS THE STREETS AT NIGHT, A RELENTLESS AVENGER OF JUSTICE: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
STORY

ALEX MALEEV
ART

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
COLORIST

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
CORY PETIT
LETTERS

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR

KELLY LAMY
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

One of the biggest tabloid newspapers in the city outs Matt Murdock. Daredevil's secret identity is revealed. The secret is out.

Matt Murdock is now faced with a continuing uphill battle of publicly denying his secret life as Daredevil for fear of disbarment or jail. But Matt's public struggle makes his alter ego more popular with the people than ever before. Then Daredevil does the unthinkable.

Faced with the growing frustration that his fight with the Kingpin would never end, Daredevil beats him and declares himself the Kingpin and that his new rule is "clean up or get out."

That was a year ago.

Now, the Yakuza have come to take Matt out and claim Hell's Kitchen for their own. After a daring, violent, midnight battle on the rain-swept streets of Hell's Kitchen, the FBI take many of the Yakuza into custody and Matt disappears so he can heal from his terrible wounds.

Milla, Matt's girlfriend, desperate to find Matt, goes to Ben Urich, a reporter for the Daily Bugle and an estranged friend to Matt. Ben tells her everything he knows about Matt's year as Kingpin, but Milla drops a bigger bomb. She tells Ben that she is secretly married to Matt Murdock.

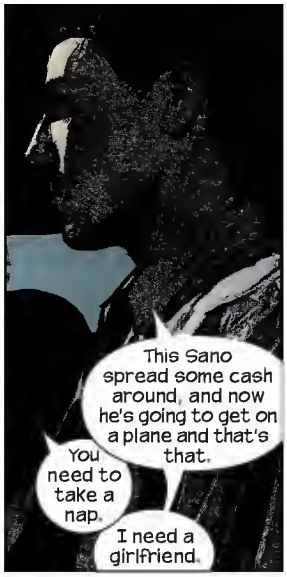
Ben finds Matt and confronts him with the idea that the crazy situations he finds himself in might be a result of Matt having had a nervous breakdown over the death of Karen Page, Matt's one true great love.

The King of Hell's Kitchen: Part 3

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He's walking out.
Piece of crap is walking right out the front door of the Federal Court House.
A hundred arrests and they're *all* walking.
That's why God invented lawyers.
You're taking it a little personally, Agent Driver.
Yeah, well, duh.


We'll get him next time. They always screw up.
No, they don't.
Let me tell you, Del Toro, let me tell you something: They don't.


This Sano spread some cash around, and now he's going to get on a plane and that's that.
You need to take a nap.
I need a girlfriend.


I-I didn't mean that in any--
It's okay.
No, you're- we haven't been partnered that long, I didn't mean that the way it sounded.
You're tired.
Yeah.

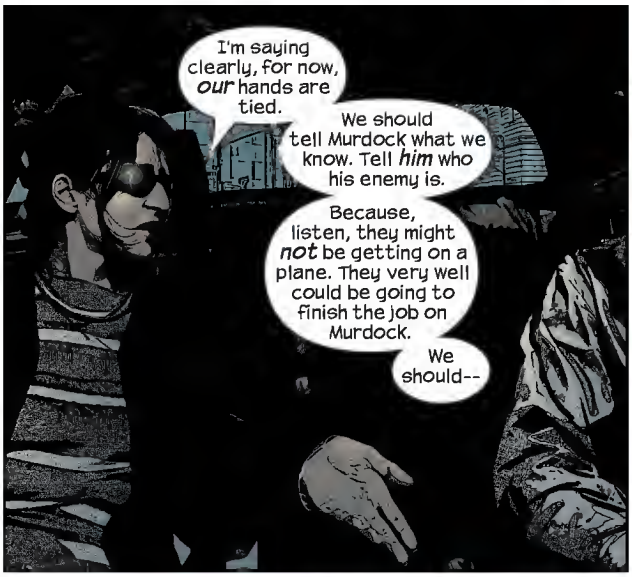

Can I say something that might tick you off?
We should go talk to Matt Murdock.
We should find him and talk to him.
Murdock?

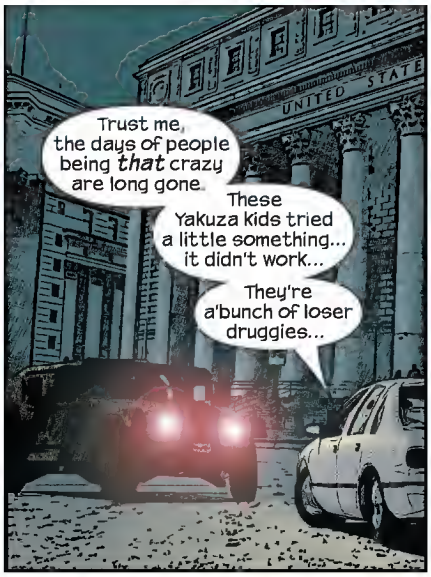

Maybe "Daredevil" can do something about these Yakuza weasels before they jump the equator.
Are you serious?
Yeah.
Murdock?
Yeah.
We should call Murdock?


Yeah.
Let me tell you something, first-hand.
Murdock is a piece of crap.
First of all, he absolutely *is* Daredevil and I don't care who he sues to prove otherwise-- *he* is Daredevil.
I saw it myself.
Secondly, Murdock is as bad as the rest of them.
No, Murdock is *worse* because you *think* he's one of the good guys, but he's just a sociopath.
A *lying* sociopath.

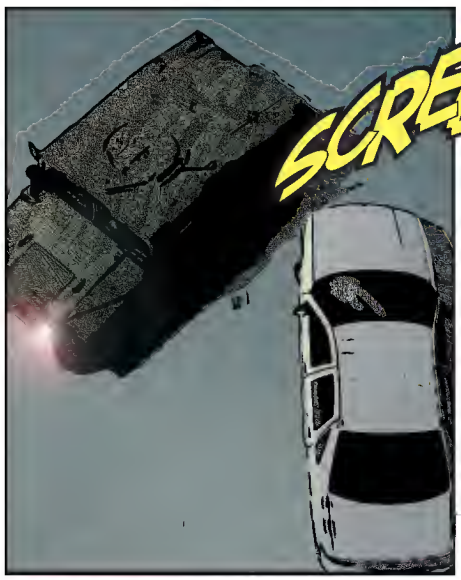

That's not true.
It's true.
No... it's not.
Last year when Murdock pulled his Kingpin stunt, you got chewed out by the suits.
You lost a little face and you're ticked at him.
That's fine and good, but...
In costume or out, Murdock's made a *lot* of people's lives a *lot* more livable.


Not mine.


I'm saying clearly, for now, *our* hands are tied.
We should tell Murdock what we know. Tell *him* who his enemy is.
Because, listen, they might *not* be getting on a plane. They very well could be going to finish the job on Murdock.
We should--


UNITED STATE
Trust me, the days of people being *that* crazy are long gone.
These Yakuza kids tried a little something... it didn't work...
They're a'bunch of loser druggies...


And they are going to crawl *right* back under the rock from whence they slithered.


SCREEEE




BUDDABUDDABUDDABU
DDABUDDABAMBAMBAM
SMASH SMASH
Get out!! We have to- AAGGH!!
AAGGHH!!
Oh my-AGH!
UNITED STATES COURT
BUDDABUDDABAMBAMBAM
DDABUDDABUDDABAMBAMBAM
NYAAAGH!
BAM BAM
SCREEEE

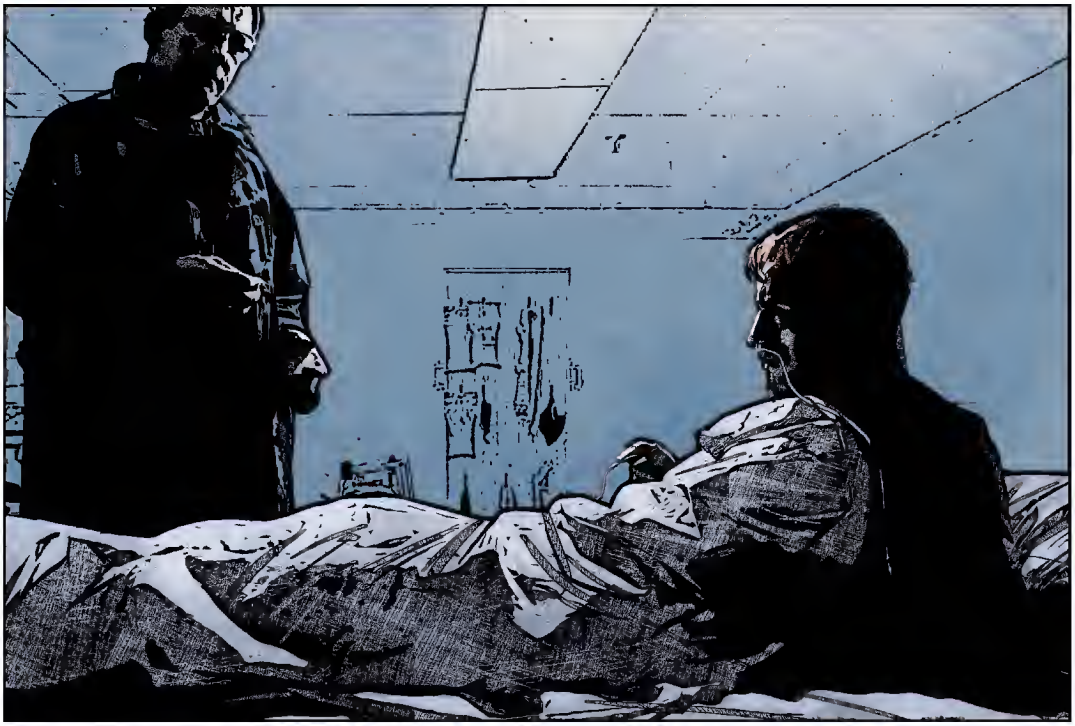







Oh, no.


Matthew?
I don't grant your premise, Ben.
You don't grant my premise?
My life is-- this isn't a great day. Yes.
Yes, I am shot and stabbed and all that--I *am* a mess.
But I do not think... No, I do not think this has *anything* to do with Karen Page.
She died. She died and--
Your life isn't a *mess,* Matthew.
It's *upside down.*
You're married, you're the Kingpin, you're--
I'm *not* the Kingpin.
You declared it.
I just--
Your words.
What *else* was I supposed to do, Ben? What else could I have *done?*
Nothing else worked.
I did everything else one man could do to stop the madness that killed my father and--
Killed Karen.
Stop it.
Stop it!



There's *no* connection between Karen's sudden, violent death and the state you're in?

None?

You don't grant my *"premise"*?

I say: What does it *look like* when a man who dresses up like the *devil* has a nervous breakdown--

What does it *look* like?

If I had to close my eyes and *imagine* it? Bet it would look a lot like this.

It would look a lot like you taking the mantle of your greatest enemy...

Getting married behind everyone's back...

Blowing off your peers... ticking off the Feds...

Punishing your best friend by making him clean up your messes.

And then there's me...

...who you *disavowed* last year. Put me *out* of your life.

You *say* to keep me safe.

But I think *now*, I think that you subconsciously *wanted* me to come back into your life with fresh eyes--

So someone could look around and say, "What the hell is going on around here?"

I think you wanted me to figure this out.

I think you're screaming for help.

You're telling me that this woman, who you loved pretty much your entire adult life, is brutally murdered in front of you...

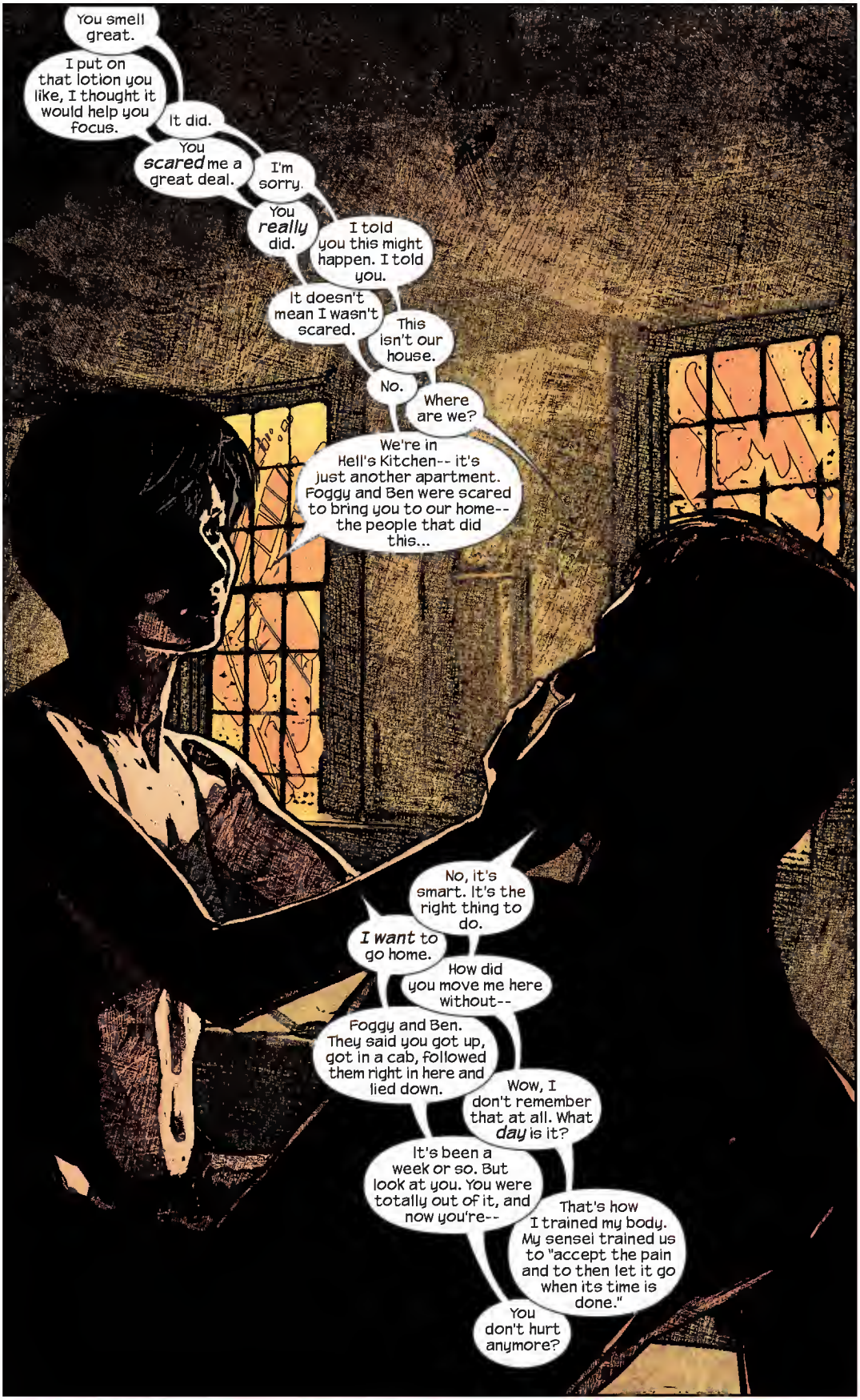
And ever since your life has spiraled out of control...

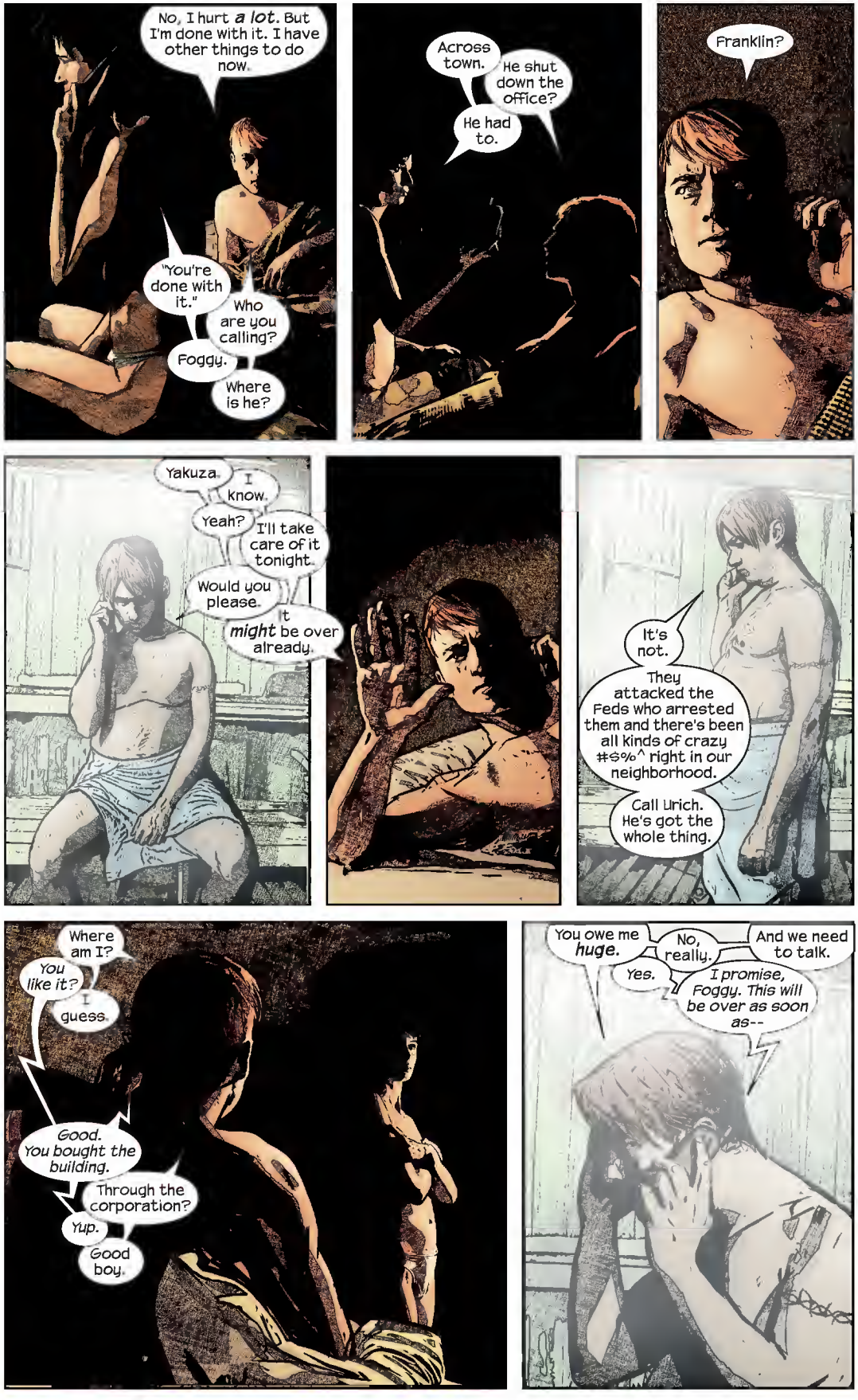
...and there's no connection.

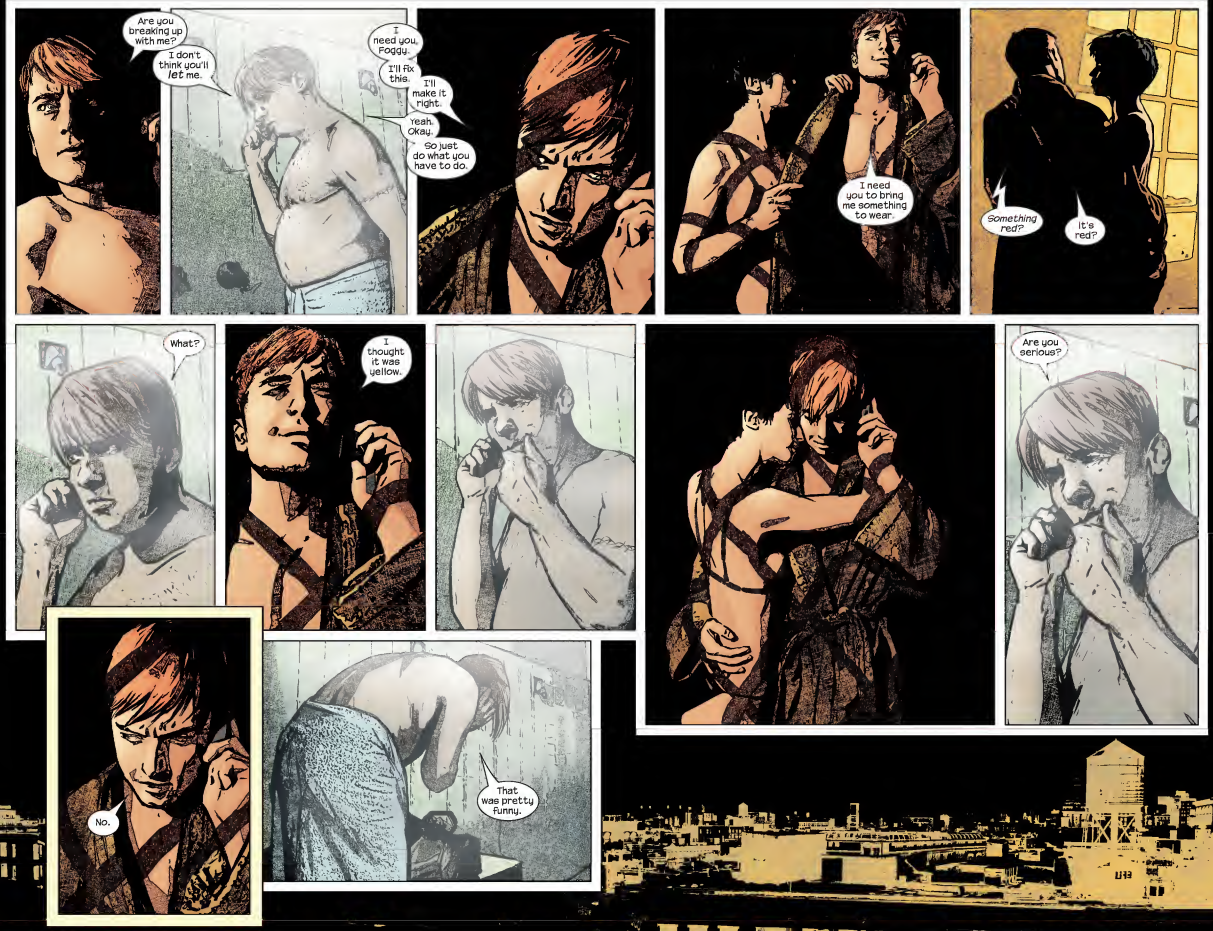

Matt...
Oh! Foggy...
Scared me.
Were you listening?
"What does it look like...
"...when a man who dresses up like the devil...
"...has a nervous breakdown--"


I think I'm right.
You are.
I--
I just didn't see it until now.
She was a hell of a woman.
CLEE CLEE
CLEE CLEE
Ben Urich. Oh, hey, Kat. What?
Seriously? When? Really.
What happened?
I wouldn't go home.
It's Yakuza gone wild out there.


9 Days Later
Milla.
What are you reading, Milla?
Matthew.
Thank goodness.
How did you know I was reading?
I could hear your fingers sliding over the braille.
That, sir, is amazing.
Guess you're feeling better.


You smell great.
I put on that lotion you like, I thought it would help you focus.
It did.
You *scared* me a great deal.
I'm sorry.
You *really* did.
I told you this might happen. I told you.
It doesn't mean I wasn't scared.
This isn't our house.
No.
Where are we?
We're in Hell's Kitchen-- it's just another apartment. Foggy and Ben were scared to bring you to our home-- the people that did this...
No, it's smart. It's the right thing to do.
I want to go home.
How did you move me here without--
Foggy and Ben. They said you got up, got in a cab, followed them right in here and lied down.
Wow, I don't remember that at all. What *day* is it?
It's been a week or so. But look at you. You were totally out of it, and now you're--
That's how I trained my body. My sensei trained us to "accept the pain and to then let it go when its time is done."
You don't hurt anymore?


No, I hurt a lot. But I'm done with it. I have other things to do now.
"You're done with it."
Who are you calling?
Foggy.
Where is he?
Across town.
He shut down the office?
He had to.
Franklin?
Yakuza.
I know.
Yeah?
I'll take care of it tonight.
Would you please.
It might be over already.
It's not.
They attacked the Feds who arrested them and there's been all kinds of crazy #$%^ right in our neighborhood.
Call Urich. He's got the whole thing.
Where am I?
You like it?
I guess.
Good. You bought the building.
Through the corporation?
Yup.
Good boy.
You owe me huge.
No, really.
Yes.
And we need to talk.
I promise, Foggy. This will be over as soon as--


Are you breaking up with me?
I don't think you'll let me.
I need you, Foggy.
I'll fix this.
I'll make it right.
Yeah. Okay.
So just do what you have to do.
I need you to bring me something to wear.
Something red?
It's red?
What?
I thought it was yellow.
Are you serious?
No.
That was pretty funny.


Jessica?
Yes, Mr. Cage...
What are you doing?
I'm putting your CD's in order, sweety.
What?
Alphabetical order.
You're touching my CD's.
No?
No.
But—
No.
I didn't do anything to them, I just—
No.
I just thought-
OH MY GOD!


Luke!
Outta your damn mind!!
Luke, Luke! Hey!
Luke! Hey!
The hell?
We need to talk.
Matt, you scared the--
Sorry.
You haven't worn your costume for--
For a long time. Yeah, sorry.
Hey, Jessica...
Don't "hey" me, man.


Everyone on the *planet* knows you're Daredevil.
Everyone knows.
I work for you--how long was I your bodyguard?
Listen, Jessica, I certainly appreciate the frustration that--
Everybody knows but me!! *Everybody knows!*
Why *not* me?
You can't say, "Hey, by the way, Jessica, being that you're putting your life on the line for me, I think it's only fair to tell you that I *am,* in fact, the vigilante Daredevil"?
I'm Daredevil.
%^&*ers!!
She's pregnant.
Oh.
Okay.
Can I move in with you?
Can we talk?
Roof.


So...
I screwed up. I screwed up everything.
You were right.
My life spiraled out into *orbit* and then I helped it.
'Kay.
Really?
Yeah.
We're good.
That's all I needed to hear.
We've all been through #$%@, man. You can't be blamed for that.
It just looked, the reason we got in your face like we did, honestly...
It looked like you weren't coming out the other side of it.
I haven't.
But you *want* to. Good enough for me.
Good, because I need help.
Let's go.
You know what?
I think you just want out of your house.
That very well could be, too.


It was a disaster.
A disaster.
Sano, I told you this was how it was going to go.
Look at me. Look at me, man.
There's twenty of us missing, twenty more in the hospital.
I told you when you first came here to New York: You cannot fight the guys in the costumes.
You cannot win. Kingpin couldn't do it. Guys with actual powers can't do it.
You can't do it!!
What is it with you New Yorkers?
You realize we whacked a Fed last week and no one- not one of you blinked an eye.
But smack around a guy in a homemade devil costume and you guys suck your thumb and cry for mommy.
These "super heroes" have you beaten before they even leave the house.
They don't even have to put on the costumes anymore, all they have to do is look at you with a "Nicholson" and you start crying.
Ori, you went into that fight ready to lose.
No, I went into that fight ready to--
It's just a guy.
One guy. He's not a god. He's not the devil. It's just a guy.
And I don't even see a guy.
All I see is someone standing in my way.
We need more guys to win? We'll get more guys.
There's fifty more right outside that door getting drunk on your liquor.


We're taking Hell's Kitchen.
We got the Feds in line. We got the product. We're making inroads. The old-timers on the West Coast are leaving us be.
The Feds are not in line.
The Feds are nowhere! Where are they?
We're right here. It's no secret. And where are they?
You think any of those Feds want to die over us? No.
They are hiding in their cubicles trying to look busy because now they know we aren't %^&#ing around.
Most of them are quietly waiting for someone to replace the Kingpin so they can get back on the gravy train.
As for Matt Murdock-- we knew this.
Killing an American hero? This has never been done.
Do any of you think it isn't worth it?
There is a huge pot of gold at the end of this.
Do you have any idea how much the Kingpin was worth before the takedown?
And now that money is just sitting there- just sitting there waiting for us to take it.
Murdock.
Man, we were so close.
So, so close.
We had him.
We almost had him.
BAM
WHA!


Almost doesn't count.
Actually I'm just here to use the bathroom.


You want to order some food, Milla? Have you eaten?
You don't have to stay with me, Foggy.
Matt asked me to, so...
You okay?
I love him so much, Foggy.
I just don't want him hurt.
What?
Is he hurt?
No.
Foggy?
No. He's-- no.
What's wrong?
Has-has Matt ever talked to you about Karen Page?
To be concluded...


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WARREN ELLIS
ADI GRANOV
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN
EXTREMIS
PART 5 of 6
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Iron Man

OH, GOD.

I'M STILL CONSCIOUS.

"Extremis"

WHAT'S HAPPENING? MAYA?

MAYA, SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

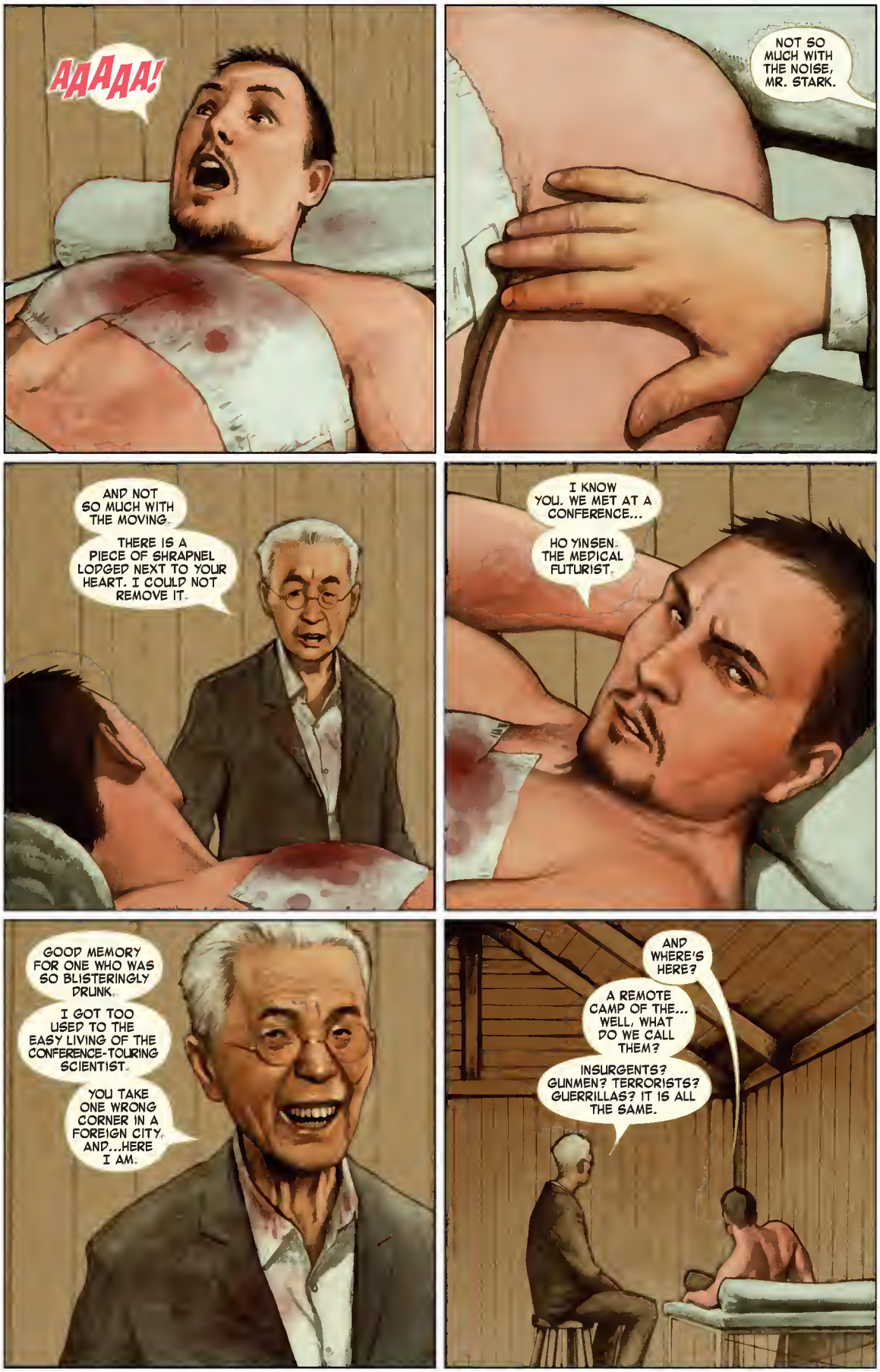
Five Of Six

I CAN HEAR YOU, MR. STARK.

YOU ARE ALIVE.

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AAAAA!
NOT SO MUCH WITH THE NOISE, MR. STARK.
AND NOT SO MUCH WITH THE MOVING.
THERE IS A PIECE OF SHRAPNEL LODGED NEXT TO YOUR HEART. I COULD NOT REMOVE IT.
I KNOW YOU. WE MET AT A CONFERENCE...
HO YINSEN. THE MEDICAL FUTURIST.
GOOD MEMORY FOR ONE WHO WAS SO BLISTERINGLY DRUNK.
I GOT TOO USED TO THE EASY LIVING OF THE CONFERENCE-TOURING SCIENTIST.
YOU TAKE ONE WRONG CORNER IN A FOREIGN CITY, AND...HERE I AM.
AND WHERE'S HERE?
A REMOTE CAMP OF THE... WELL, WHAT DO WE CALL THEM?
INSURGENTS? GUNMEN? TERRORISTS? GUERRILLAS? IT IS ALL THE SAME.


THEY HAVE YINSEN, THE GREAT MEDICAL INNOVATOR, FOR COMBAT MEDICINE.
AND NOW THEY HAVE ANTHONY STARK, THE GREAT WEAPONEER.
YOU SEE THIS? THIS IS YOUR FUTURE NOW.
THIS WILL SHORTLY BE EXPLAINED TO YOU, PROBABLY WITH GREAT VIOLENCE.
THEY WANT YOU TO BUILD THEM A WEAPON THAT THEY CAN USE AGAINST THE AMERICANS.
FROM THIS? OH, GOD, THAT HURTS....
LUCKILY FOR YOU, YOUR WOUND IS FATAL. YOU WILL BE DEAD IN A WEEK.
THE SHRAPNEL IS MOVING. YOU WILL BE SLOWLY STABBED TO DEATH BY A CHUNK OF YOUR OWN MUNITION.
YINSEN IS NOT SO LUCKY, FOR HE IS TOUGHER THAN JOHN WAYNE'S OLD BOOTS AND WILL LIVE FOREVER.
I CAN'T GIVE THESE PEOPLE A WEAPON.
IF YOU TRY HARD, YOU COULD PERHAPS MAKE YOURSELF DIE FIRST.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING, YINSEN.
YOU ARE LUCKY TO HAVE ME AS YOUR FRIEND, WHITEY.
...YES, I AM.
AT THE CONFERENCE... YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HELPING LAND MINE VICTIMS IN KOREA.
MAGNETIC WOUND EXCISION.


I CANNOT REMOVE THE SHRAPNEL. IT PRESSES ON YOUR HEART. THERE COULD BE A RUPTURE.
NOT REMOVE IT-- HOLD IT.
HOLD IT IN PLACE, STOP IT WORKING ITSELF DEEPER.
AAKKKK
BACK TO BED. DIE IN RELATIVE COMFORT AT LEAST.
DID...DID YOU SEE MY PRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE?
I AM AFRAID I WALKED OUT. SOMETHING ABOUT EXO-SKELETONS FOR SOLDIERS. WAR STUFF.
IT WASN'T FOR WAR. THAT WAS JUST TO GET THE FUNDING.
YOU CAN'T JUST...*WISH* THE FUTURE INTO BEING. IT HAS TO BE PAID FOR.
EVEN THE MUNITIONS... WERE JUST STEALING MONEY FROM THE ARMY FOR THE REAL WORK.
AND WHAT IS THE REAL WORK?
TEST-PILOTING THE FUTURE.
THE IRON MAN PROGRAM I FLOATED AT THE CONFERENCE IS NOT ABOUT EXO-SKELETONS OR WAR.
IT'S ABOUT BECOMING BETTER.
IT'S ABOUT BRINGING ON THE FUTURE.
THE EARLIEST STAGES OF ADAPTING MACHINE TO MAN AND MAKING US GREAT.


WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A PROTOTYPE IRON MAN OUT OF THIS.
A WEARABLE WEAPON FOR OUR HOSTS.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO BUILD A MAGNETIC FIELD GENERATOR INTO THE CHEST PLATE.


WE'RE GOING TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT KEEPS ME ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET US BOTH OUT OF HERE.
BECAUSE MY WORK ISN'T FINISHED YET.








I TELL YOU...EITHER IT'S FINISHED, OR I AM.
IT IS DONE. AND PROBABLY SO ARE YOU.
QUICKLY, NOW.


OH, GOD, THAT'S HEAVY...
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO MOVE?
ONCE THE POWER'S ON. IF THE POWER CELLS ARE GOOD.
LOCK IT IN PLACE.. QUICK. IT'S MAKING MY CHEST TIGHTEN...
IT IS ALL I CAN DO TO LIFT IT. HOLD ON A FEW MOMENTS MORE.
TOO HEAVY.
GET THE POWER ON.
THE LAST OF MY MEDICAL KIT. A STIMULANT.
I HAVE A PIECE OF METAL.. RUBBING AGAINST MY HEART...AND YOU WANT TO MAKE IT BEAT FASTER...?
PUT THE POWER ON.
TRYING...

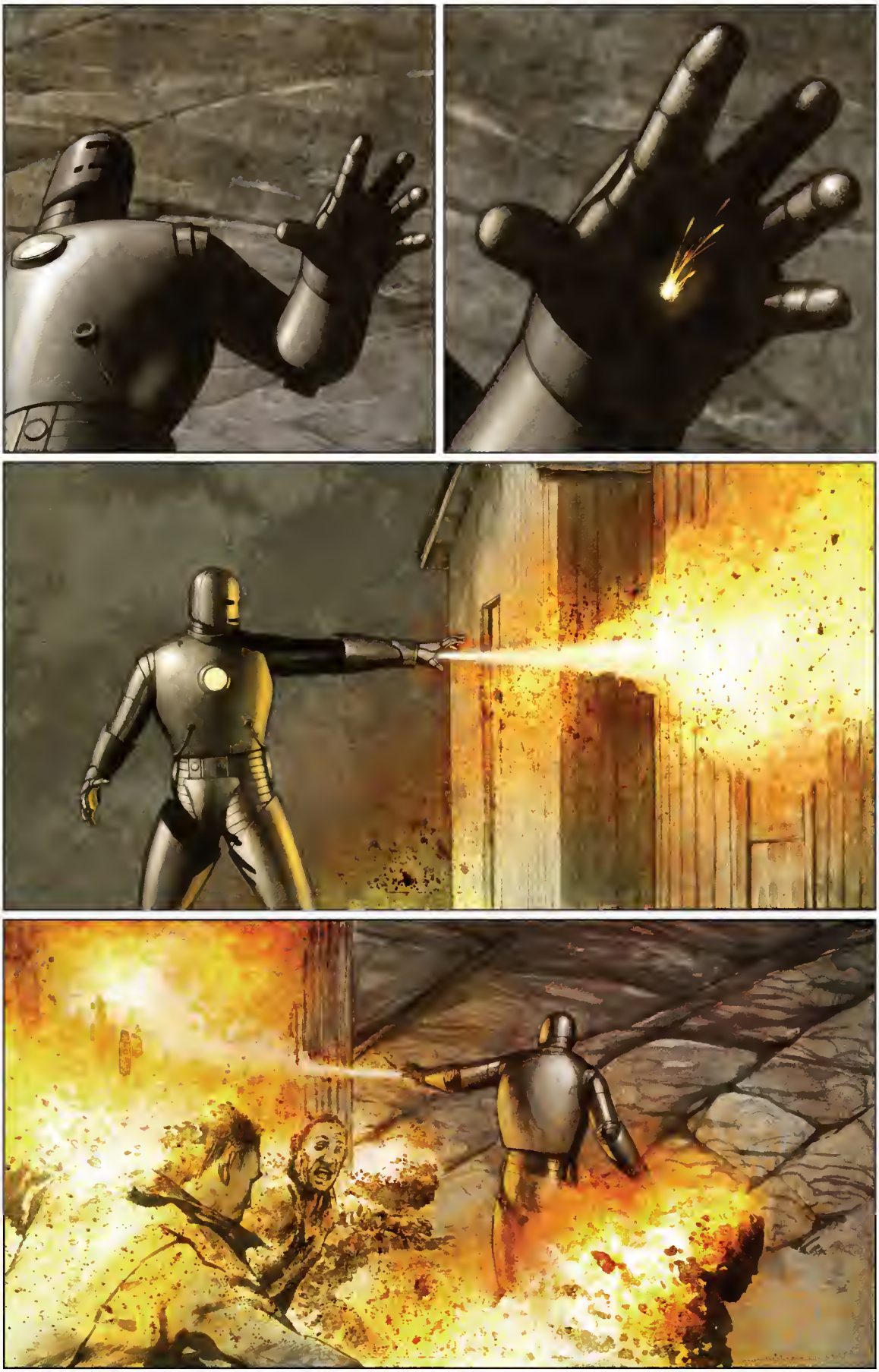

UUUHHHH
TONY? TONY, ARE YOU WELL?
TONY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
TONY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
THIS EITHER SAVES YOU OR KILLS YOU.
EITHER WAY: THANK YOU FOR TRYING, MY FRIEND.
DAMN YOU FOR TRYING THIS, TONY.
THIS ISN'T HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.


BEEN A HELL OF A WEEK... HASN'T IT?
THE NEXT BIT'S GOING TO BE REALLY INTERESTING.
SAY HELLO TO THE IRON MAN, YOLI TERRORIST SCUM.



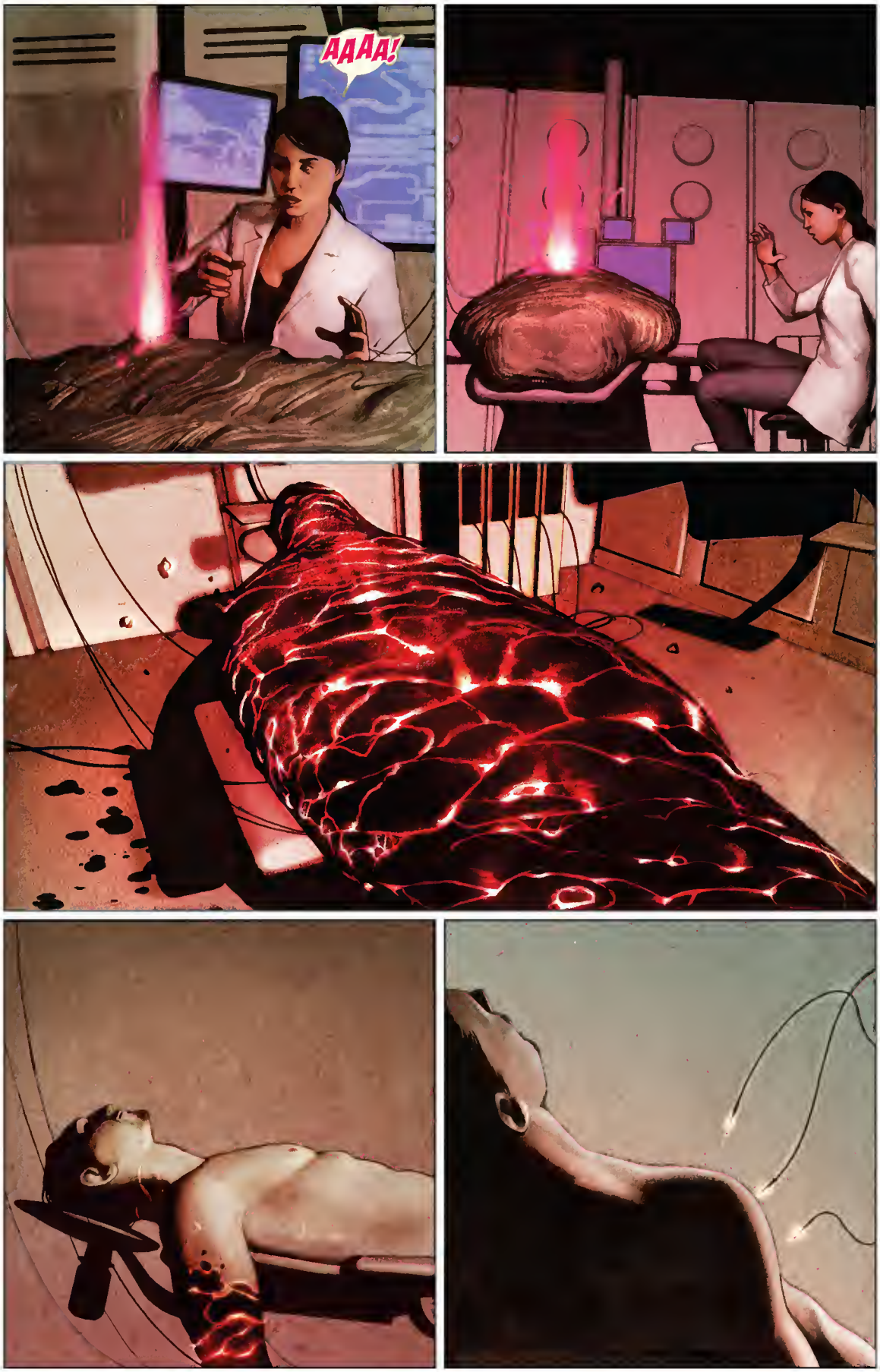

YOU PEOPLE WANTED STARK MICROMUNITIONS?
HAVE SOME.










AAAA!


I'M ALIVE.
I'LL BE DAMNED.
TONY? DON'T TRY TO MOVE.
I AM SO SICK OF PEOPLE SAYING THAT TO ME.
HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
24 HOURS. THIS IS WAY TOO FAST.
I MADE A FEW ALTERATIONS TO YOUR PROGRAM WHILE YOU WERE OUT OF THE ROOM. REMOVED SOME SAFETIES.
YOU DID *WHAT?*
TURN IT DOWN. I THINK I'VE GROWN NEW EAR TISSUE.
LET'S SEE IF THE OTHER STUFF I GREW WORKS.

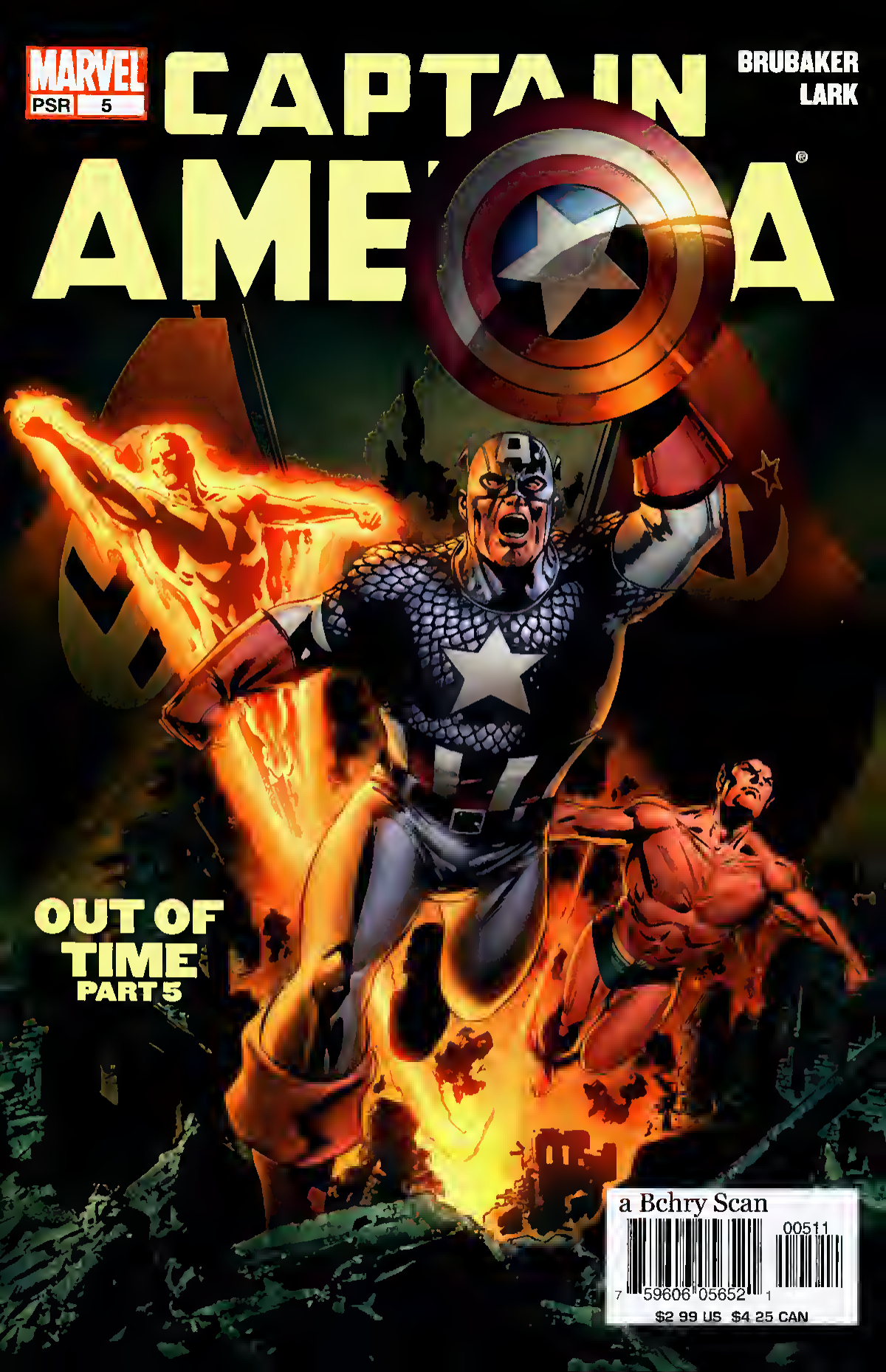

START.
TONY... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
THIS.


SUPERCOMPRESSED AND STORED IN THE HOLLOWS OF MY BONES, MAYA.
I CARRY THE CRUCIAL UNDERSHEATH OF THE IRON MAN SUIT INSIDE MY BODY NOW.
WIRED DIRECTLY INTO MY BRAIN.
I CONTROL THE IRON MAN WITH THOUGHT. LIKE IT WAS ANOTHER LIMB.
TKK!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
I SENT IT THE SIGNAL FROM THE LOCKCHIP IN MY ARM.
BRRR BRRR


OH, HELL. DON'T DO ANYTHING FOR A SECOND, I HAVE TO TAKE THIS...
MAYA HANSEN.
HELLO, MAYA. IT'S TONY.
NOTE CAREFULLY HOW MY LIPS ARE NOT MOVING AND THAT THERE'S NOTHING UP MY SLEEVE.
IF YOU LIKE, I COULD DO THIS WHILE DRINKING A GLASS OF WATER.
YOU ARE FREAKING ME OUT!
DON'T WATCH THIS NEXT BIT. THEN.
HOW ARE YOU DOING THAT?
VECTORED REPULSOR FIELD. JUST LIGHTLY PUSHING STUFF FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES.




...MY GOD.
IRON MAN. INSIDE AND OUT.
WE HAVE TO RUN SOME TESTS. THE STRAIN ON YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS...
GREW NEW ONES.
I NEED TO GO TO WORK NOW. MALLEN'S STILL OUT THERE. AND HE'S A DAY CLOSER TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
I DO.
MAYA, I CAN SEE THROUGH SATELLITES NOW.


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OUT OF TIME
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During the dark days of the early 1940s, a covert military experiment turned Steve Rogers into America's first Super-Soldier, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

Throughout the war, Cap and his partner Bucky fought alongside our infantry and with a group of heroes known as the Invaders. In the closing months of WWII, Captain America and Bucky were both presumed dead in an explosion over the Arctic Ocean.

Decades later, a figure was found trapped in ice, and Captain America was revived. Having slept through more than half of the 20th century, Steve Rogers awakened to a world he never imagined, a world where war had moved from the battlefield to the city streets...A world in dire need of..

CAPTAIN AMERICA

OUT OF TIME Part 5



Aleksander Lukin, a rogue Soviet general, uses a cybernetic assassin to kill the Red Skull and steal from him a slightly damaged Cosmic Cube. Later the same night, Lukin's men in London manage to seize a Weapon of Mass Destruction designed to help charge the Cube. Although Captain America and S.H.I.E.L.D. don't yet know Lukin's identity, they know that someone has both the Cube and the means to fill it with power.

In the midst of all this, Cap's mind has begun to play tricks on him, as old and confusing memories begin to haunt him. It becomes obvious that someone is manipulating his thoughts when Crossbones attacks and Cap loses control, barely surviving the fight as he is assaulted by mental images. Crossbones leaves him with a clue that a Russian is setting him up.

Meanwhile, Agent 13—Cap's old girlfriend Sharon Carter—is on the trail of Jack Monroe, an old partner of Cap's who appears to be the assassin who killed the Skull. But Sharon finds out too late that Jack is actually dead, and that she's walked right into a trap...

Writer	Artist	Artist, pages 2, 3, 21 and 22	Colorist	Letterer
Ed Brubaker	Michael Lark	Steve Epting	Frank D'Armata	VC's Randy Gentile

Production	Assistant Editors	Editor	Editor in Chief	Publisher
Jacob Chabot	Schmidt, Moore & Lazer	Tom Brevoort	Joe Quesada	Dan Buckley

Captain America created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby

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--SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE ONE OF OUR DOCS TAKE A LOOK AT YOU ROGERS?
I'M FINE, FURY. I'VE BEEN HIT BY THE HULK--THIS IS NOTHING.
I JUST WANT SOME ANSWERS FOR A CHANGE. SOMEONE'S BEEN PULLING MY STRINGS AND I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU THERE. A LITTLE. YOU SAID CROSSBONES MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A RUSSIAN?
YEAH.
WELL IT TOOK SOME LEVERAGE, BUT I FINALLY GOT INTERPOL TO COUGH UP AN I.D. ON THAT DEAD SOLDIER WE FOUND IN LONDON.
TURNS OUT HE'S PART OF A WHOLE REGIMENT OF EX-SOVIET SOLDIERS THAT FELL OFF THE MAP IN THE MID-'90S.
ALONG WITH THEIR GENERAL, ALEKSANDER LUKIN. NAME RING ANY BELLS?
SHOULD IT?
PROBABLY NOT.
LUKIN WAS CAREER MILITARY. MAJOR COLD WAR PLAYER. APPARENTLY DIDN'T LIKE ALL THE CHANGES AFTER THE COLLAPSE, SO HE AND HIS MEN WENT ROGUE.
THE NEXT WE SEE HIM IS THREE YEARS AGO, AS THE HEAD OF AN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION WITH OFFICES IN EVERY MAJOR METROPOLITAN CENTER IN THE CIVILIZED WORLD.


AND YOU THINK THIS IS THE MAN WHO KILLED THE SKULL? WHO'S HAD US RUNNING BLIND?
WHY?
WHO CAN SAY? POWER? ISN'T THAT WHAT MOST OF THEM ARE ABOUT?
NO. THIS IS PERSONAL... YOU SAW THOSE GRAVES IN ARLINGTON. THAT WAS MEANT FOR ME.
MY FILE ON LUKIN IS THIN, STEVE... MOST OF WHAT I'VE GOT IS RECENT. JUST SINCE THE KRONAS CORPORATION EMERGED...
EVEN THE KGB DIDN'T KEEP TABS ON HIM. APPARENTLY HE WAS A PROTEGE OF ONE OF THEIR BIG MUCKY-MUCKS. SOME GUY NAMED KARPOV.
VASILY KARPOV?
THINK SO, YEAH.
WAIT...DID YOU JUST SAY THE KRONAS CORPORATION?
WHAT IS IT?
KRONAS WAS A SMALL VILLAGE IN RUSSIA. NOT TOO FAR FROM STALINGRAD.
NEVER HEARD OF THE PLACE.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE...IT'S NOT THERE ANYMORE...


"BUT THAT'S WHERE I LAST SAW VASILY KARPOV..."
The Russian Front— Early November, 1942...
UK!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA


Теперь! Идите! Идите!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
KRAK! KRAK!
KRAK! KRAK!
EIN HINTERHALT!
HINTER UNS!
SCHNELL! SCHNELL!
BUDDA BUDDA


CAP! INCOMING!
DANKE.
FIRE IN THE HOLE!




PANZER'S OUT FOR THE COUNT... HOW'D WE DO?
ALL ACES, CAP. NOT SO MUCH AS A SCRATCH TO--


BLAM
--HEY!


WE DON'T EXECUTE PRISONERS... YOU FRIGGIN'--
EASY, BUCKY, EASY...


EXPLAIN YOURSELF.. RIGHT NOW, SOLDIER.


THIS MAN WAS A COUSIN TO ME. .HE BROUGHT SHAME ON OUR COUNTRY, TO FIGHT FOR OUR ENEMY.
HE WAS NO LONGER RUSSIAN.
SO YOU JUST SHOOT HIM IN THE HEAD?
LET IT GO, BUCKY... THIS ISN'T WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.
LET'S JUST MAKE SURE WE GET AT LEAST ONE PRISONER BACK TO THE CAMP.
"THE HIWIS--SHORT FOR HILFSWILLIGE--WERE VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS. RUSSIAN PRISONERS OR DESERTERS FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE NAZIS AGAINST THEIR OWN PEOPLE.
"IT WAS JUST ONE PART OF WHAT MADE THE RUSSIAN FRONT UGLIER THAN WHAT WE WERE USED TO.
"THE SNOW AND ICE WERE ANOTHER PART.
"WE WERE CAMPED TEN MILES WEST OF KALACH WHICH THE RUSSIANS HAD RECENTLY RETAKEN...
"...AND STALIN'S FORCES WERE ABOUT TO LAUNCH OPERATION URANUS. TO TRAP THE ENTIRE NAZI INVASION IN FOR THE WINTER WITH NO SUPPLY LINES AND NO WAY HOME.


"BUT WORD HAD LEAKED THAT THE GERMANS HAD SOME KIND OF SECRET SUPER-WEAPON NEARBY THAT THEY WERE WAITING TO SPRING.
"THE INVADERS HAD BEEN SENT IN TO FIND OUT WHAT THIS WEAPON WAS... AND TO MAKE SURE IT DIDN'T STOP THE RUSSIAN OP FROM GOING OFF AS PLANNED.
"COLONEL VASILY KARPOV WAS THE RUSSIAN OFFICER IN CHARGE OF OUR MISSION AND I DIDN'T LIKE HIM...
AA'IEEE!
<TELL US WHERE THE WEAPON IS, NAZI VERMIN. AND I'LL STOP HIM BEFORE HE SHOWS YOU YOUR INSIDES.>
AA'IEEE!
<PLEASE, PLEASE...NO... I WILL TELL WHAT I KNOW...>
<OF COURSE, YOU WILL...>
<...THEY ALWAYS DO. DON'T THEY, COMRADE CAPTAIN?>
<I WOULDN'T KNOW...>


ANY WORD, CAP?
YEAH. KARPOV'S TACTICS AREN'T TO MY TASTE, BUT HE'S GETTING *RESULTS*...
OUR TARGET IS A SMALL VILLAGE NAMED *KRONAS*... A FEW CLICKS NORTH OF HERE.
THE NAZIS HAVE CONTROL OF THE AREA, AND WHATEVER THIS *WEAPON* IS, IT'S BEING *HEAVILY* GUARDED.
BY SOME OF *OUR* KIND YOU MEAN?
THE SOLDIER HADN'T SEEN *ANYTHING* FIRSTHAND, JIM. HE'S JUST REPEATING RUMORS.
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S AT LEAST *ONE* NAZI THERE WHO CAN *FLY*.
IT'S GOOD, THEN, THAT WE'VE GOT *THREE* FLIERS TO BRING HIM DOWN.
I'M *COUNTING* ON THAT. BUT HOW ARE *YOU* HOLDING UP WITH THIS WEATHER, NAMOR? *TORO'S* BEEN SHIVERING ALL DAY.
IT'S COLD AS HELL, SURE, BUT IT WON'T KEEP US OUT OF THE AIR.
GOOD TO HEAR. NOW, GET SOME REST WHILE YOU *CAN*. WE HIT KRONAS AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN.


"BUT I NEVER COULD SLEEP THE NIGHT BEFORE A MISSION AND APPARENTLY I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE..."
CAPTAIN.
COLONEL.
I SEE YOU ARE MORE LIKE ME THAN PERHAPS YOU THINK?
IF YOU SAY SO.
YOU DON'T *LIKE* OUR WAYS? HOW EASY IT IS FOR YOU TO *JUDGE* US.
WHEN NAZIS CONTROL HALF OF YOUR *WASHINGTON D.C.*...WHEN THEY TURN YOUR OWN BROTHERS AGAINST YOU, *THEN* YOU CAN JUDGE...
WELL, MAYBE IF YOUR *LEADER* HADN'T BEEN SO OBLIGING WHEN THEY INVADED POLAND YOU WOULDN'T *HAVE* THE WOLVES AT YOUR DOOR LIKE THIS.
SO...YOUR MEN WILL BE *READY* FOR WHAT COMES? MUCH DEPENDS UPON IT.
WE'LL BE READY. YOU JUST *REMEMBER*, YOU MAY BE IN CHARGE HERE. BUT IF YOU WANT TO LIVE TO SEE THE SUNSET...
...YOU'LL FOLLOW *MY* ORDERS TOMORROW.


"SO, THE MORNING FOUND US WITH KARPOV'S HANDPICKED N.K.V.D. SQUAD HIDING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF KRONAS...
"...WHILE OUR ADVANCE SCOUT CLEARED THE WAY.
"WHICH IS THE REAL SECRET OF WHAT BUCKY WAS...
"THE OFFICIAL STORY SAID HE WAS A SYMBOL TO COUNTER THE RISE OF THE HITLER YOUTH...
"AND THERE WAS SOME TRUTH TO THAT. BUT LIKE ALL THINGS IN WAR, THERE WAS A DARKER TRUTH UNDERNEATH...
"BUCKY DID THE THINGS I COULDN'T. I WAS THE ICON. I WORE THE FLAG... BUT WHILE I GAVE SPEECHES TO TROOPS IN THE TRENCHES...
"...HE WAS DOING WHAT HE'D BEEN TRAINED TO DO...AND HE WAS HIGHLY TRAINED.
"HE WOULDN'T'VE BEEN OUT THERE WITH US IF HE WASN'T...
BLUEJAY TO EAGLE. WE ARE GO FOR LAUNCH.

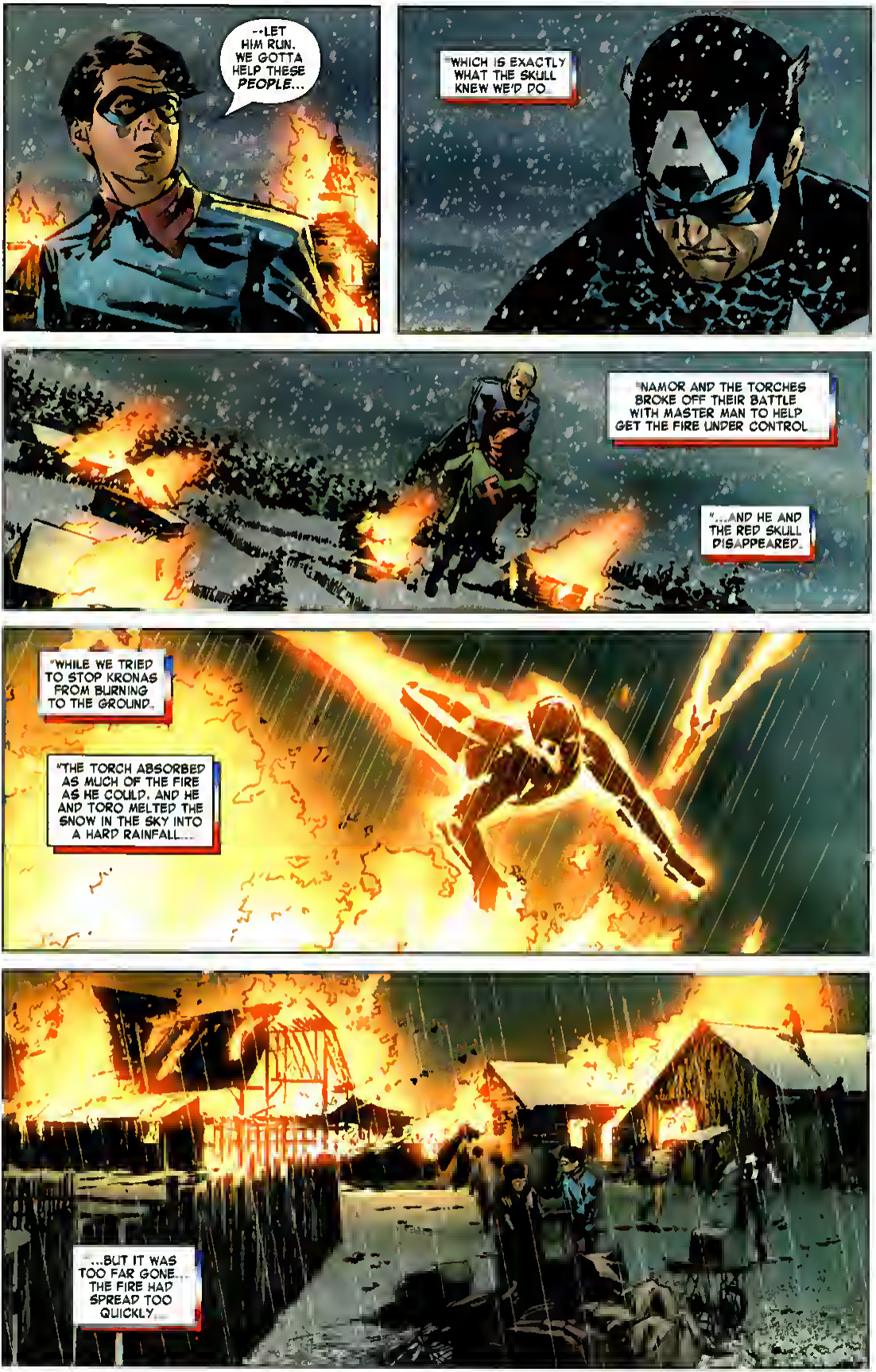

"WITH THE PERIMETER GUARD OUT, WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WALTZ RIGHT IN...
"...BUT WE DIDN'T GET THAT LUCKY
NO! HOLD YOUR FIRE, DAMN IT!
KRAK!
"SUDDENLY THE ALARM IS RAISED AND IT ALL GOES TO HELL...
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
"IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY WERE EXPECTING US. NAZIS START CRAWLING OUT OF THE WOODWORK...
"...ALONG WITH SOMETHING FAR WORSE--MASTER MAN, HITLER'S PERSONAL SUPER-SOLDIER...
WER WAGT ES, MEINE RUHE ZU STÖREN?!
"WE'D BEEN EXPECTING HIM, OR SOMETHING LIKE HIM, OF COURSE."
TORCH, NAMOR--NOW!


"WE FACED THREATS LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME...
EUCH SCHWEINEHUNDE MACH ICH ZU HACKFLEISCH!
"...BUT I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THIS KIND OF COMBAT LOOKED LIKE TO THE RUSSIANS.
KEEP YOUR MEN BACK, KARPOV! PROTECT THE VILLAGERS!
KEEP THEM SAFE!
"THEY'D BEEN FIGHTING A WAR OF ATTRITION OVER EACH BLOCK OF STALINGRAD AND EVERY ACRE OF THEIR COUNTRYSIDE...
AAA4!
"...AND NOW THERE WERE MEN DOING BATTLE IN THE SKY ABOVE THEM... MEN ON FIRE.


"FINDING THE SECRET WEAPON WASN'T A PROBLEM. WE JUST LOOKED FOR WHERE THE NAZI GUARDS WERE HEAVIEST IN NUMBER, AND MADE FOR THAT..."
CHUK CHUK CHUK
UHN!
BUCKY, MACHINE GUN, TWELVE O'CLOCK-- TAKE IT!


CAREFUL BUCK...WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S—
ZZZZRRSSHHH
DOWN!
WHAT THE HELL IS IN THERE?
WHOA... CAP LOOK...
"I HAD A FEW SECONDS TO SURVEY THE DAMAGE THE NAZI SUPER-WEAPON HAD DONE...TO REALIZE WHAT IT WOULD PROBABLY DO TO ANYTHING ELSE THAT GOT IN ITS WAY...


"...AND THEN IT WAS BACK WITH A VENGEANCE
MOVE, NOW! GO! GO!
ZZZZZARRSSHH
"ITS BEAMS TORE THROUGH HOUSES AND PEOPLE INDISCRIMINATELY.
"...AND THROUGH THE FLAMES, I SAW THE RINGLEADER OF THIS LITTLE BAND OF TERROR. THE RED SKULL, BEHIND THE CONTROLS.
"I'D REALIZE LATER HE WAS SETTING THE SELF-DESTRUCT ON THE DEVICE, KNOWING HE WAS OUTNUMBERED AND HIS CAUSE WAS LOST.
"SO HE WAS CREATING THE BIGGEST DISTRACTION HE COULD TO COVER HIS ESCAPE.
SKULL... DAMN HIS EYES.
CAP--


--LET HIM RUN. WE GOTTA HELP THESE PEOPLE...
"WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THE SKULL KNEW WE'D DO.
"NAMOR AND THE TORCHES BROKE OFF THEIR BATTLE WITH MASTER MAN TO HELP GET THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL.
"...AND HE AND THE RED SKULL DISAPPEARED.
"WHILE WE TRIED TO STOP KRONAS FROM BURNING TO THE GROUND.
"THE TORCH ABSORBED AS MUCH OF THE FIRE AS HE COULD, AND HE AND TORO MELTED THE SNOW IN THE SKY INTO A HARD RAINFALL....
...BUT IT WAS TOO FAR GONE... THE FIRE HAD SPREAD TOO QUICKLY...


"KARPOV, THOUGH, WAS LESS WORRIED ABOUT THE INNOCENT VILLAGERS THAN HE WAS ABOUT WHAT THE SKULL HAD *LEFT BEHIND*.
<GET IT OUT OF THERE! NOW!>
<WE'RE TAKING THIS MACHINE BACK TO *STALINGRAD* TO USE ON ITS MAKERS!>


"AND WHEN THE SKULL'S BOOBY TRAP WENT OFF HIS MEN BURNED ALONG WITH THE NAZI WEAPON


DAMN YOU, YOU *FOOL!* HASN'T THERE BEEN *ENOUGH* DEATH TODAY?




YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND... YOU *CANNOT.*
YOU AND THE GERMANS, YOU HAVE YOUR *SUPER-SOLDIERS*...YOUR *SECRET WEAPONS*...


...BUT WE RUSSIANS...WE HAVE NOTHING BUT OUR WINTER.


"WE WERE IN THE AIR AN HOUR LATER. ON OUR WAY BACK TO ENGLAND TO MAKE OUR REPORT AND TRY TO PICK UP THE SKULL'S TRAIL.


"THE LAST I SAW OF VASILY KARPOV, HE WAS WANDERING THROUGH WHAT WAS LEFT OF KRONAS ..SURVEYING THE DAMAGE I'M SURE HE BLAMED ON ME."


<MAMA! NOOO! DON'T BE *DEAD*, MAMA! *PLEASE* DON'T BE DEAD!>

<YOU, *BOY*--COME *AWAY* FROM THERE.>

<BUT...MY MAMA...>


<IT'S TOO LATE FOR *HER*, BOY...TOO LATE FOR THIS *VILLAGE*. BUT IT IS *NOT* TOO LATE FOR MOTHER RUSSIA...>

<WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BOY?>


<ALEK..>


<YOU COME WITH ME, ALEK. I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO STALINGRAD AND SHOW YOU WHAT IT *TRULY MEANS* TO BE RUSSIAN.>

<YOU'VE ALREADY LEARNED THE *HARDEST* PART..>


SO, WHAT'RE YOU THINKIN'?
I DON'T KNOW... COULD ALL OF THIS--THE SKULL'S DEATH THE CUBE--BE SOME KIND OF LONG DISTANCE REVENGE OF KARPOV'S?
I DON'T THINK SO, STEVE. KARPOV DIED NEARLY TWENTY YEARS AGO... WHILE YOU WERE STILL ON ICE.
AND REMEMBER HE WAS HIGH-RANKING KGB SO HE'D'VE PROBABLY HEARD THROUGH ONE SOURCE OR ANOTHER THAT YOU DIED IN '45
HUNH. YEAH... THAT.
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOT SURE. ONE THING I HAVEN'T MENTIONED YET. SOMETHING S MESSING WITH MY MIND MY MEMORIES.
IT MAY BE THE CUBE. I'M NOT SURE...
BUT THAT'S ONE REASON I CONTACTED YOU TONIGHT.
I NEED TRANSPORT SOMEWHERE I NEED TO SEE IF REALITY AND MY MEMORIES MATCH UP OR NOT.
OF COURSE. I'LL SEND AN ORDER TO THE FLIGHT DECK RIGHT NOW. CARE TO TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE HEADED?
ACTUALLY... NO, I DON'T.


YOU RANG?
YEAH. CALL DOWN TO FLIGHT DECK ONE AND TELL 'EM TO GIVE ROGERS A HYPERJET. TAKE HIM WHEREVER HE NEEDS TO GO.
AND THEN SEE WHY AGENT 13 HASN'T CALLED IN A PROGRESS REPORT YET.
YES SIR.
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE, TERESA?
DID YOU SHOW HIM THE FILE?
CREEZUS. AREN'T YOU GETTING ENOUGH GOSSIP LISTENING IN ON MY PRIVATE LINE?
APPARENTLY NOT SIR.
CLASSIFIED
NO. I DIDN'T SHOW HIM THE FILE...
I WANT TO BE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE ABOUT THIS BEFORE I DESTROY HIS WORLD IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.
OUT OF TIME
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE!

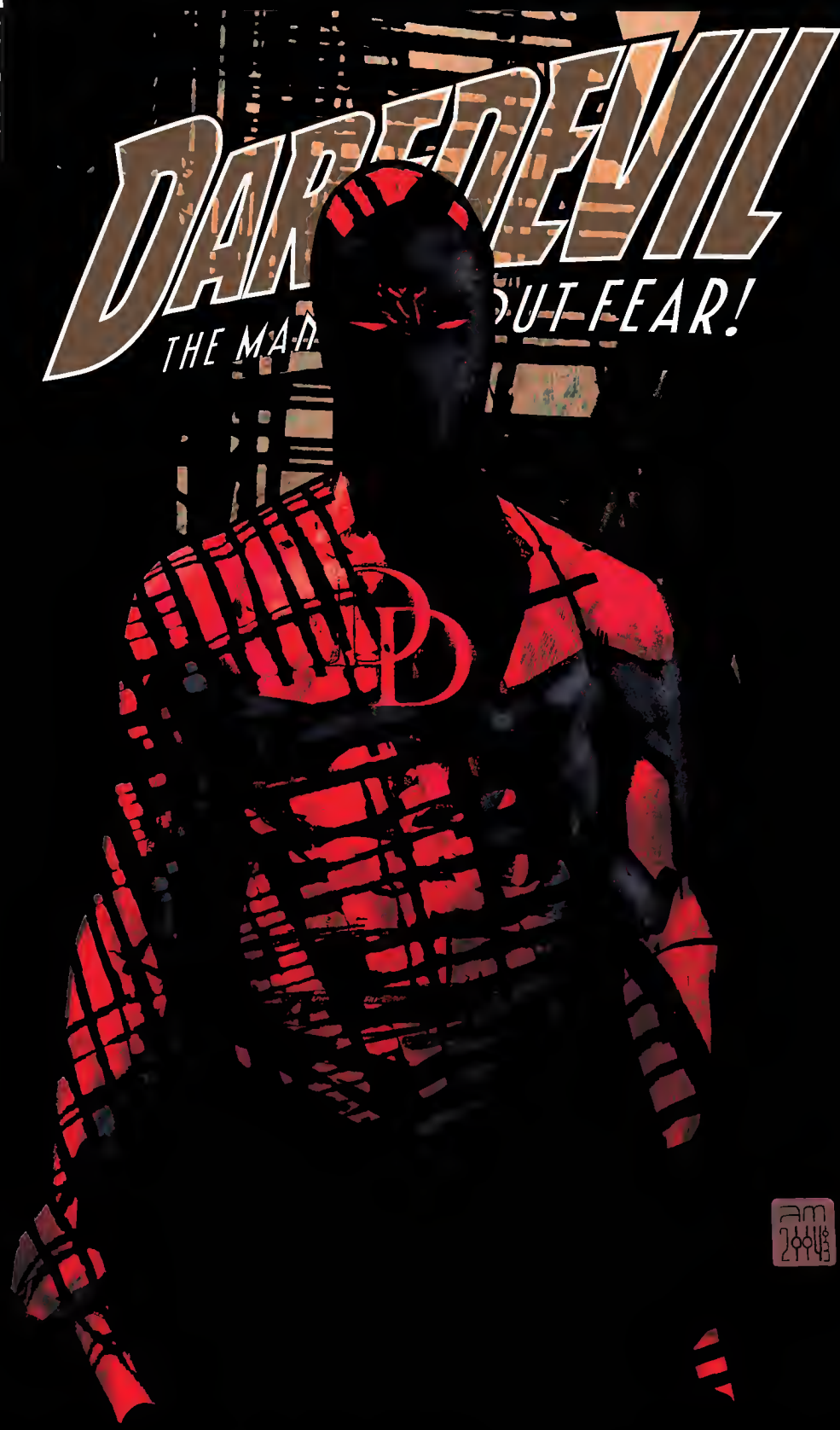
MARVEL KNIGHTS®

MARVEL PSR 60 440

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • ALEX MALEEV

DAREDEVIL®

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



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ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND, BUT HIS OTHER FOUR SENSES FUNCTION WITH SUPERHUMAN SHARPNESS AND A RADAR SENSE. WITH AMAZING FIGHTING SKILLS HE STALKS THE STREETS AT NIGHT, A RELENTLESS AVENGER OF JUSTICE: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
STORY

ALEX MALEEV
ART

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
COLORIST

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
CORY PETIT
LETTERS

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR

KELLY LAMY
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

One of the biggest tabloid newspapers in the city outs Matt Murdock. Daredevil's secret identity is revealed.

The secret is out.

Matt Murdock is now faced with a continuing uphill battle of publicly denying his secret life as Daredevil for fear of disbarment or jail. But Matt's public struggle makes his alter ego more popular with the people than ever before. Then Daredevil does the unthinkable.

Faced with the growing frustration that his fight with the Kingpin would never end, Daredevil beats him and declares himself the Kingpin and that his new rule is "clean up or get out."

That was a year ago.

Now, the Yakuza have come to take Matt out and claim Hell's Kitchen for their own. After a daring, violent, midnight battle on the rain-swept streets of Hell's Kitchen, the FBI take many of the Yakuza into custody and Matt disappears so he can heal from his terrible wounds.

Milla, Matt's girlfriend, desperate to find Matt, goes to Ben Urich, a reporter for the Daily Bugle and an estranged friend to Matt. Ben tells her everything he knows about Matt's year as Kingpin, but Milla drops a bigger bomb. She tells Ben that she is secretly married to Matt Murdock.

Ben finds Matt and confronts him with the idea that the crazy situations he finds himself in might be a result of Matt having had a nervous breakdown over the death of Karen Page, Matt's one true great love.

Matt regains his strength and asks some of his fellow super heroes for help against the growing threat of the Yakuza.

Daredevil teams up with Luke Cage, Iron Fist and Spider-Man and takes the fight to the Yakuza.

The King of Hell's Kitchen: Part 5

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Uh, what are we doing?
I came here to tell you-- you li'l Yakuzas-- that you cannot win.
You cannot beat us.
These streets are *not* "up for grabs."
The people who live here-- their well-being is not yours for the taking. We have dedicated our entire lives, specifically, to keep people like *you* from hurting people like *them*.
You cannot and will not win.
So, I'm giving you a chance...
Give up.
Because we'll take little pleasure in hurting you.
A little, sure.
But just a little.
You're really good at this.


Give up.
Told you they were too stupid.
Fifty large to the one who cuts off his little horns and shoves them in an orifice!
Told you.
We got it.
Gentlemen?






SMACK
SMACK
Ggkkgg!!
CRACK
AAGGH!!
AARGH!
CRAK
D-don't hurt me!
Damn Cage, you didn't even raise a hand. You beat him up with a look.
It's my trademark.
I gotta get a look.


Do you understand now?
Hell's Kitchen is *not* up for grabs.
You bring an army, I bring an army.
AAARRGGHH!!
WHAP
Excuse me...
...I was talking.
Guk!
God %^&#ing ^%$# you!!
THIS ISN'T OVER, MURDOCK!!
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUD


Jeez D, your bad guys really have no sense of decorum.
Finish up in here.
I'll take care of him.
But it's time for my coffee break.


BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
AAGH!
BUDDABUDDA


CLACK
Aggh!
How do you do that?
Swear to God! I'll kill you!
Go ahead then, Sano!
Take your best shot.
In fact, pop your little synthetic drug.
There's one right in your jacket pocket.
Go ahead, hop yourself up full of fake genetic powers you're trying to sell on the street!
I want you to come at me with everything you have.
So when I totally and whole-heartedly put you down--
I want there to be no doubt in your mind that it was complete and total.
I don't want to hear you mouthing from your prison cell about how I cheated you out of the "victory that was rightly yours"...
I want everyone to know that you lost.
Badly.
Rr!


AARRGH!
CRACK
WHACK
AARGH!
Is that it then?
PACK


SMACK
Agh!
AAGGHH!!
No!
Not this!
Get up.
It's done when I say it is.
GET UP!!!


Thing of it is...
Agh!
SMACK
There were about fifty ways you could have slipped into a profitable career in drug trafficking and money laundering in this city without even getting our attention.
Sadly... happens every day.
SMACK
I can't be everywhere at once. "Lord knows I've tried..."
But you just blew into town all full of noisy.
So arrogant!
And when all's said and done, all you *really* did was get *me* back in costume.
So what I am saying is... that whatever your plan *was*...
CRACK
However you *thought* tonight was going to end...
...I bet you didn't think it was going to end *this* badly.
CRACK
Outside!
AAIE!


Aaggh! No....
Tell them!
Tell them who you are.
I can't do...
Tell them!!


M-my name is Sano Ren.
Tell them who you murdered this week!
I didn't--
Tell them whose murder you ordered!


A-a Federal agent. Don't know his name--
Yes, you do!!
D-Driver.
Guy's name was Driver.


Now tell them where your factory is.
Tell them where the drugs are. Where you make the MGH.


The- the Owl's old place.
At the West Harbor.


Put your hands behind your back so the officers can cuff you.
Nicely.




Officers. I do apologize for the public disturbance...
...but there was no other way.

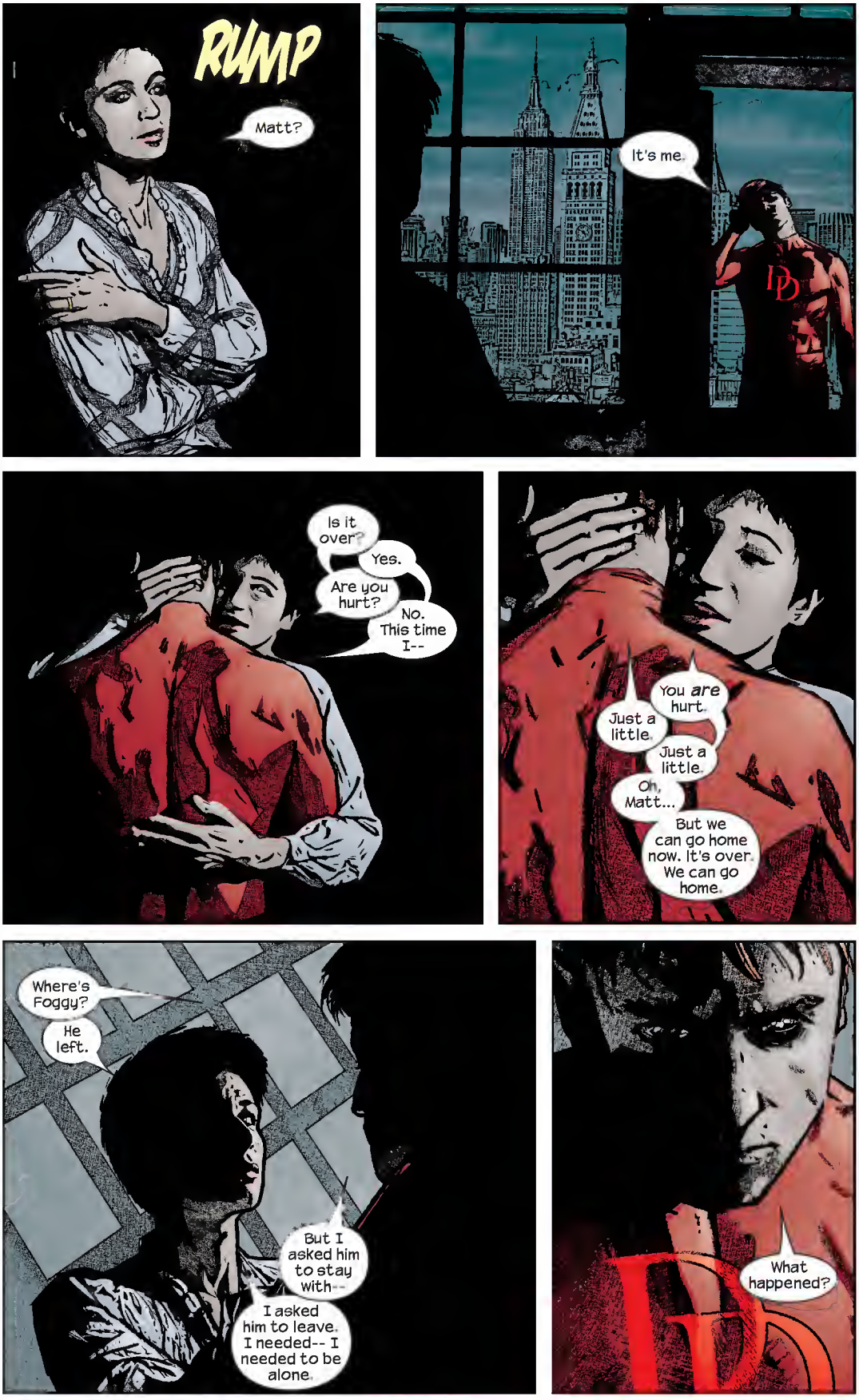

Are-are you really him?
We've met before, yes?
Couple of years back. The Jester.
Yes, yes, that's right.
Are you-- are you back?
Looks like I have to be.


Thanks for this.


There's more in the back. A lot more.
Make sure you call a Federal agent named Del Toro.
Del Toro?

Tell her I am sorry I couldn't get this done sooner.
Tell her I am sorry she lost her partner.

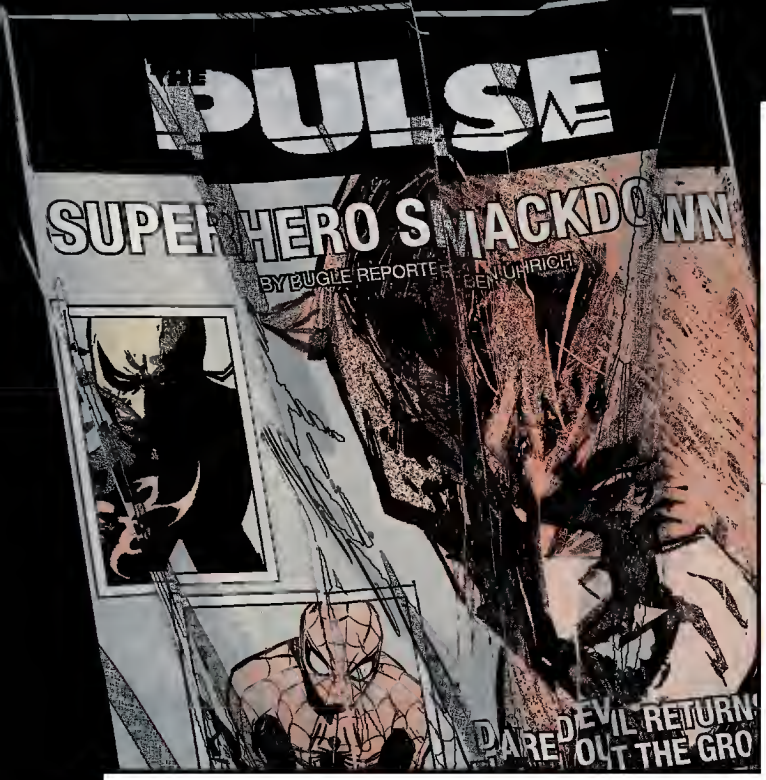

A couple got away.
Enjoy the moment.
Thank you, all of you.
Gotta tell ya, Devilboy. You haven't lost a step.
Felt good.
Have to get back in shape.
But it felt good...
So, you back in it full-time?
Yeah.
That's what I want to hear.
What are you going to do next?
Don't know. Made a rather large mess of my life.
Guess I have to do what I can to make sure what almost happened to me this week doesn't happen again.
Well, if it's any consolation, you pretty much solidified my belief in keeping my secret identity a secret. like, forever...
Because, man, I do not want to be you.
No offense.
I really did make a mess of things this time.
And now you get to be the Kingpin too.
What a mess.
Yeah, well, now you have something to do.
Well, if you ever need help...
(And you know I mean this...)
Call the X-Men!
I have a hot wife at home. I so don't need to be here.
Does he have a hot wife?
I thought he was gay.
So did I.
And you wear little yellow booties.
They were a present.
From a guy.
I'm leaving.


RUMP
Matt?
It's me.
Is it over?
Yes.
Are you hurt?
No. This time I--
You are hurt.
Just a little.
Just a little.
Oh, Matt...
But we can go home now. It's over. We can go home.
Where's Foggy?
He left.
But I asked him to stay with--
I asked him to leave. I needed-- I needed to be alone.
What happened?

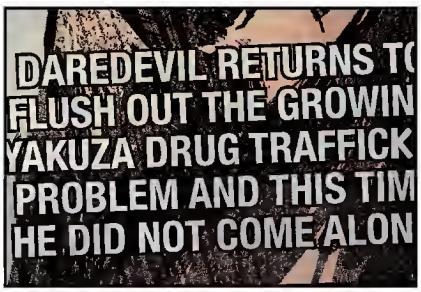

I can hear your heartbeat, Milla...
What's wrong?
Foggy told me about Mr. Urich's theory.
That you, maybe...
Maybe you had a nervous breakdown.
That you never got over the death of this Karen Page person and that--
I know the theory.
Is it true?
Is it true?
I don't know.


Do you think it's true?
It might be.
Is that why you married me?
No.
Is our marriage part of this thing-- this nervous breakdown?
I don't know.
Milla, I just need some time to--


I just need to--
Milla...
SHUT UP!!
NO!!
This isn't what I wanted!!
This isn't what you vowed to me!!
You made a promise!!
That's what a marriage is!! It's a promise!!
This isn't what I wanted.


THE PULSE
SUPER HERO SMACKDOWN
BY BUGLE REPORTER BEN UHRICH
DAREDEVIL RETURNS TO FLUSH OUT THE GROWIN YAKUZA DRUG TRAFFICK PROBLEM AND THIS TIM HE DID NOT COME ALON


PULSE

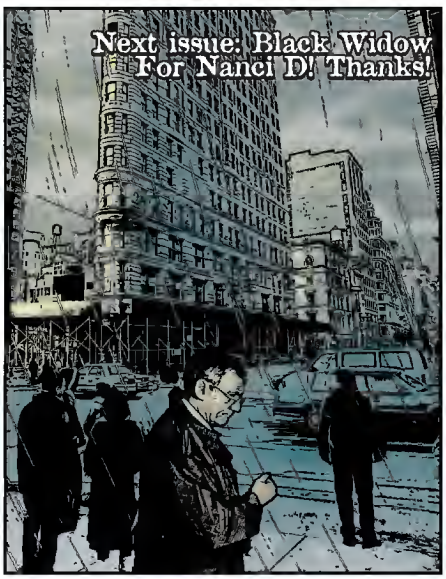

DAREDEVIL RETURNS TO
FLUSH OUT THE GROWIN
YAKUZA DRUG TRAFFICK
PROBLEM AND THIS TIM
HE DID NOT COME ALON


DAILY
Real Estate
PULSE
FREE DAILY




PULSE
SUPER HERO SMACKDOW
DAREDEVIL RETURNS TO
FLUSH OUT THE GROWIN
YAKUZA DRUG TRAFFICK
PROBLEM AND THIS TIM
HE DID NOT CO ALONE

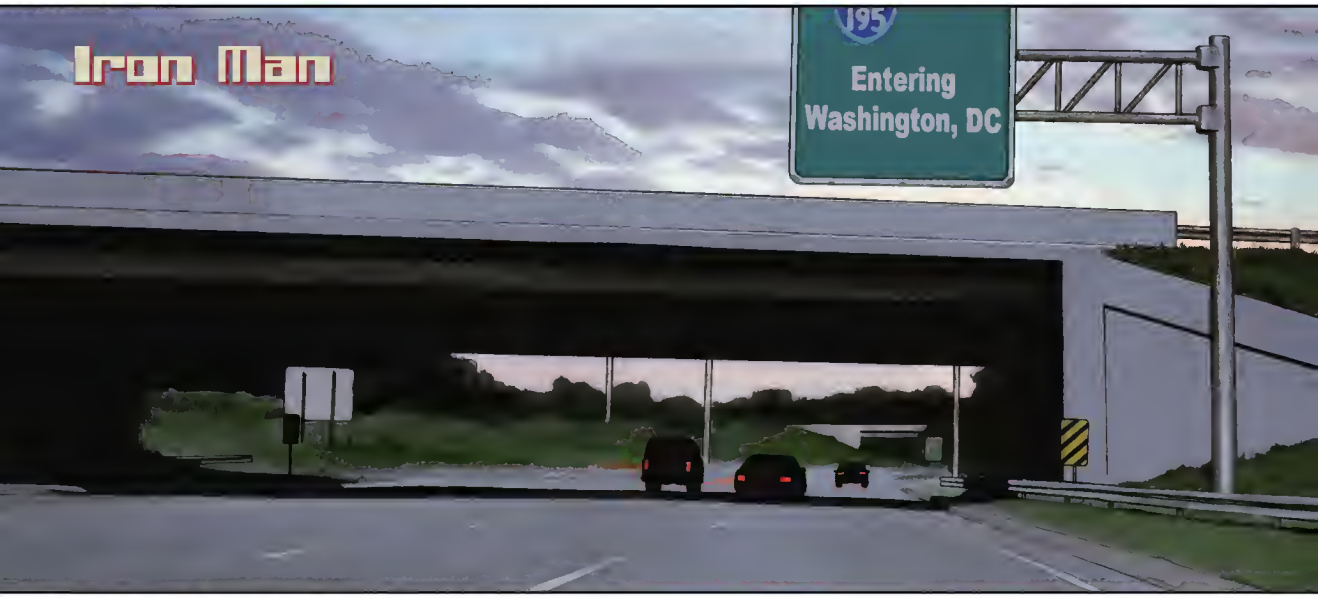



Next issue: Black Widow
For Nanci D! Thanks!



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MR. MALLEN.
LAY ON THE GROUND. HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD. ANKLES CROSSED.
OR I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU.


THEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL ME.
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN GIVEN A TOOL TO SAVE PEOPLE LIKE ME FROM THOSE CRIMINALS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
AND YOU'RE AN IDIOT IF YOU THINK I'M NOT GOING TO USE IT.
YOU KNOW WHY YOU FRIGHTEN ME? WHY I HAD TO DEAL WITH YOU MYSELF?


I MADE THE FIRST VERSION OF THIS SUIT TO SAVE MYSELF AND A FRIEND FROM CRIMINALS WITH GUNS.
I MUST'VE KILLED FIFTY PEOPLE, TRYING TO FREE US
AND MY FRIEND STILL DIED.

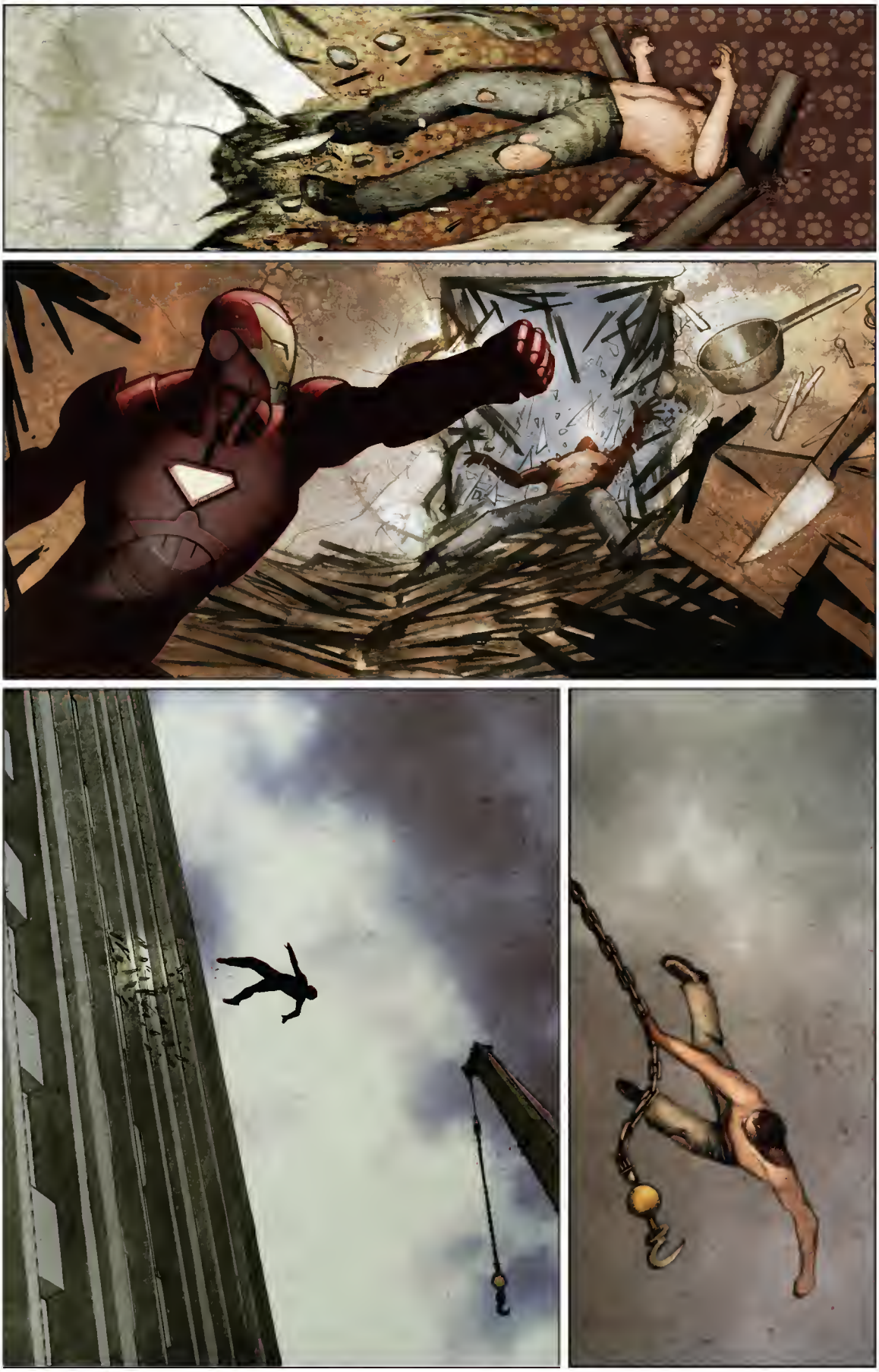

A STRAY BULLET WENT THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE HUT. KILLED HIM INSTANTLY.
MY FOLKS DIED THE SAME WAY--
AND YOU KILLED FIFTY PEOPLE YOU NEVER MET. TWENTY YEARS LATER.
YOU'RE MY NIGHTMARE. THE VERSION OF ME THAT COULDN'T SEE THE FUTURE.


SOME MURDER-HAPPY HILLBILLY WHO NEVER IN HIS LIFE HAD A THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THESE TOOLS ARE FOR.
SHUT UP! SHUT UP DIE DIE DIE!
I'M NOT THERE ANYMORE.
I UPGRADED.
I'M AS FAST AS YOU. AND RUNNING THIS SUIT BY THOUGHT.
YOU LOST THE ARMS RACE.


I'VE SPENT YEARS TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE ARMS RACE.
YEARS TRYING TO TURN THIS SUIT INTO SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T JUST KILL.
YOU CAN STILL LIVE THROUGH THIS, MALLEN.
YOU'RE TOO SLOW NOW--
MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY




OH
GODDD...




YOU REALLY WANT TO DO IT LIKE THIS?
I AM TRYING VERY HARD NOT TO KILL YOU.


I ONLY LEFT YOU ALIVE IN TEXAS BECAUSE I WAS BUSY--

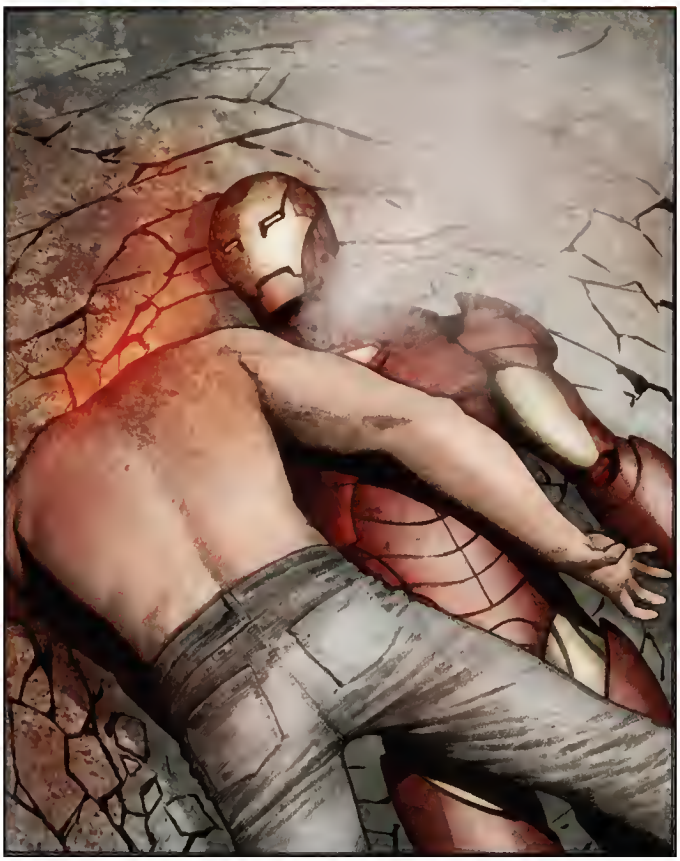

HA!
DID IT AGAIN--
KLANG!

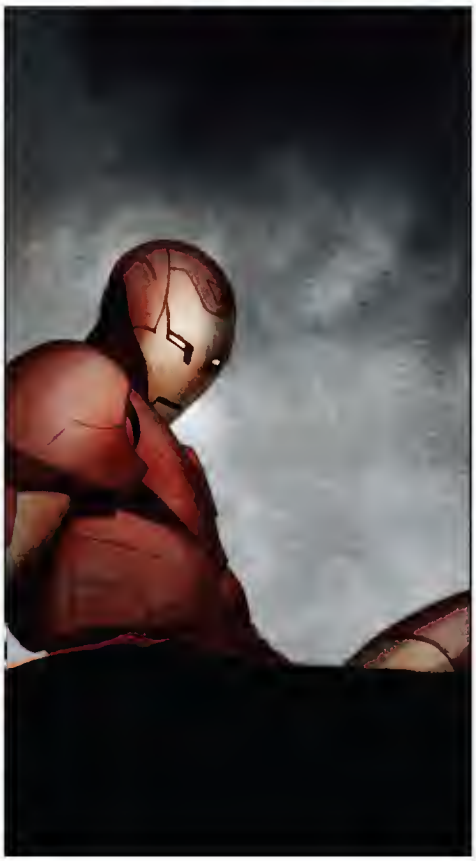

RRRRAAAA!!


MALLEN... FOR GOD'S SAKE... DON'T MAKE ME...
THERE ISN'T ANY FUTURE!
I'M GOING TO KILL IT!
AAHHKK!


UK
HRRR
GKK
MALLEN
YOU
STUPID








FUMP!
DAMN YOU.
DAMN YOU FOR MAKING ME DO THAT.
ONE THING LEFT TO DO.
THE WORST THING.


FUTUREPHARM
MAYA.
LAB-4
IT TAKES TWO KEYS TO OPEN THE EXTREMIS VAULT.
YOUR BOSS HAD ONE. YOU HAD ONE.
HE COULDN'T GET INTO THE VAULT TO STEAL THE EXTREMIS DOSE ON HIS OWN.
I'VE HAD TIME TO DO SOME THINKING.
AND MY NEW SUIT WIRES ME INTO ALL KINDS OF NETWORKS.
I KNOW, MAYA.


THE ARMY PULLED THE EXTREMIS FUNDING. NO FIELD TEST.
NO MORE MONEY. EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD A WORKING PROCESS.
SO YOU AND YOUR BOSS DECIDED TO ARRANGE A LIVE DEMONSTRATION YOURSELVES.
DOSE A TERRORIST WITH EXTREMIS.
THEN CALL YOUR FRIEND TONY STARK, WHO EMPLOYS IRON MAN.
AN EXTREMIS ENHANCILE TESTED AGAINST A MAN WEARING THE MOST ADVANCED PERSONAL COMBAT SYSTEM ON EARTH.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE ATOMIC BOMB?
THEY SAID IT HAD TO BE USED ONCE IN ANGER, IN ORDER THAT IT NEVER BE USED IN ANGER AGAIN.
I WOULD HAVE USED THE RENEWED FUNDING TO GET OUT OF THE ARMS RACE.
SET UP ON MY OWN. MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY.
MORE THAN FIFTY PEOPLE DIE IN CAR ACCIDENTS EVERY DAY.
THE ONLY MISTAKE I MADE WAS GIVING A DAMN ABOUT WHO WAS INSIDE THE IRON MAN SUIT.
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US, TONY. YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN ME.


BUT I'M TRYING TO BE
AND I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AT MYSELF IN THE MIRROR TOMORROW MORNING.
End.


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CAPTAIN AMERICA
OUT OF TIME PART 6
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Somewhere Beneath Philadelphia
YES, SIR... WE'LL BE IN PLACE WITHIN THE HOUR, GENERAL LUKIN.
THE DEVICE IS SET TO THE REMOTE...
...AND THE SCAPEGOAT IS IN POSITION.
IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, YOU SHOULD HAVE PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY ON EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TODAY.
WERE YOU ABLE TO GET THE RECEPTOR SET UP?
THAT'S GOOD...HUNH-HUH.
ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT FOR WHAT?
NO. YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR. THAT IS NONE OF MY CONCERN... EXCUSE ME.
YES SIR...I AM. I'M ABOUT TO TAKE CARE OF THE S.H.I.E.L.D. WOMAN RIGHT NOW. EXACTLY AS ORDERED.

During the dark days of the early 1940s, a covert military experiment turned Steve Rogers into America's first Super-Soldier, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

Throughout the war, Cap and his partner Bucky fought alongside our infantry and with a group of heroes known as the Invaders. In the closing months of WWII, Captain America and Bucky were both presumed dead in an explosion over the Arctic Ocean.

Decades later, a figure was found trapped in ice, and Captain America was revived. Having slept through more than half of the 20th century, Steve Rogers awakened to a world he never imagined: a world where war had moved from the battlefield to the city streets. A world in dire need of

CAPTAIN AMERICA

OUT OF TIME Part 6



Aleksander Lukin, a rogue Soviet general, uses a cybernetic assassin to kill the Red Skull and steal from him a slightly damaged Cosmic Cube. Then, Lukin's men in London seize one of the Skull's Weapons of Mass Destruction, which was designed to help charge the Cube. In the midst of this chaos, Captain America's mind has begun to play tricks on him. Old and confusing memories continue to resurface, almost as if he were under a mental attack.

As clues begin to pile up, Cap and S.H.I.E.L.D. director Nick Fury come to suspect that Lukin, who is now publicly known as the head of an international corporation, is the man behind it all, and that the seeds of his vendetta may lie in an Invaders mission from decades past.

Cap leaves Fury to investigate further while he tries to get to the bottom of the mysterious memories that have been plaguing him. But Fury is keeping something from Cap, something he fears could destroy him.

Writer	Artist	Colorist	Letterer
Ed Brubaker	Steve Epting	Frank D'Armata	VC's Randy Gentile

Production	Assistant Editors	Editor	Editor in Chief	Publisher
Jacob Chabot	Schmidt, Mooke & Lazar	Tom Brevoort	Joe Quesada	Dan Buckley

Captain America created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby

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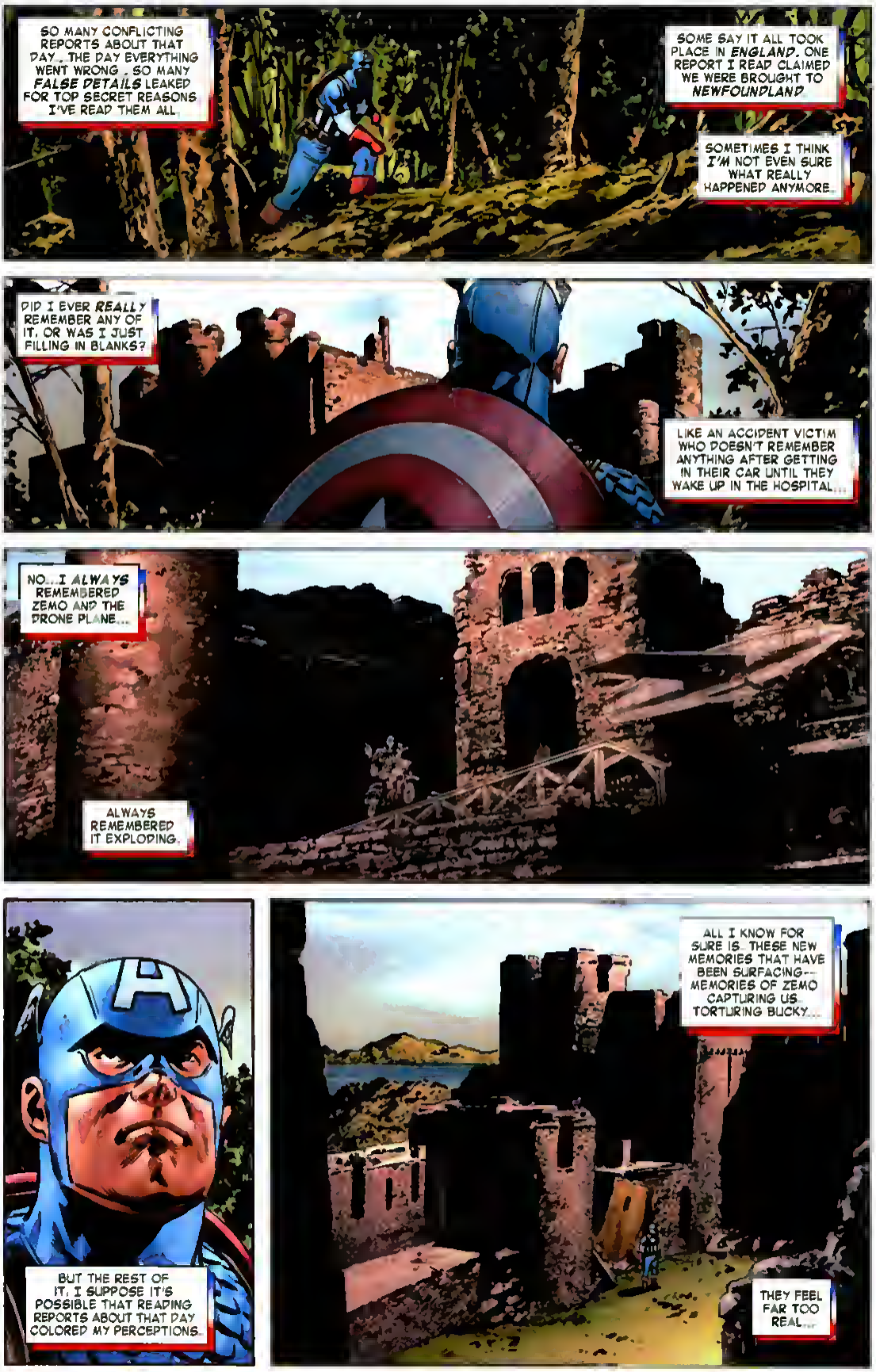
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S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier
HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING
—COURSE I KNOW I'M THE ONE WHO SENT HER OUT THERE.
SURE, BUT WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?
WHAT I HEAR, SHE HASN'T REPORTED IN FOR OVER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THAT'S NOT LIKE SHARON AND YOU KNOW IT.
YOU WANNA TAKE THAT TONE DOWN A NOTCH AND ADD A "SIR" AT THE END, AGENT TAPPER?
SORRY... SIR...
IT'S JUST SHARON. UH... AGENT 13 AND I... WE...
I KNOW... BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS OVER, NEAL?


THAT WAS MY MISTAKE. I DIDN'T WANT HER TAKING THE LIAISON GIG WITH ROGERS. JEALOUS I GUESS. WITH THEIR HISTORY AND ALL...
SO I TRIED TO PUT MY FOOT DOWN. BUT WELL...
SHARON PUT HER FOOT WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE.
BASICALLY.
SHE'S TOUGH AS NAILS. THAT GIRL. WHICH IS WHY I'M TRYING NOT TO WORRY YET.
LOOK. I'VE GOT TEAMS SWEEPING PHILLY RIGHT NOW. AND OUR SATELLITES ARE SCANNING THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD FOR A SIGNAL FROM HER COMMUNICATOR.
IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER. YOU CAN JOIN THE EFFORT.
THAT WOULD HELP SIR. YEAH...I JUST...I CAN'T SIT AROUND HERE DOING NOTHING.
UNDERSTOOD. AGENT. TAKE A CAR DOWN BUT NOT ONE OF MY PORSCHES.
I'LL HAVE ONE OF THE TEAM LEADERS RADIO YOU WITH THEIR 20.
IS HE DOWN THERE... LOOKING FOR HER...?
CAPTAIN AMERICA?
YES. SIR.
NO. HE'S GOT ENOUGH ON HIS MIND RIGHT NOW AS IT IS.
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW SHE'S MISSING. AND I'D LIKE TO FIND HER BEFORE HE HAS TO BE TOLD...


The English Channel
SO, YOU WANT US TO STAY HERE THEN, SIR?
YES. WHAT I HAVE TO DO HERE, I NEED TO DO ON MY OWN.
IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, SIR...
THIS ISLAND'S NOT ON ANY OF THE CHARTS, AND WE NEEDED S.H.I.E.L.D. CLEARANCE JUST TO LAND...BUT OTHER THAN THAT OLD CASTLE UP THERE, IT LOOKS DESERTED.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS WHERE I DIED.


SO MANY CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT THAT DAY... THE DAY EVERYTHING WENT WRONG. SO MANY *FALSE DETAILS* LEAKED FOR TOP SECRET REASONS I'VE READ THEM ALL.
SOME SAY IT ALL TOOK PLACE IN *ENGLAND*. ONE REPORT I READ CLAIMED WE WERE BROUGHT TO *NEWFOUNDLAND*.
SOMETIMES I THINK *I'M* NOT EVEN SURE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ANYMORE...
DID I EVER *REALLY* REMEMBER ANY OF IT, OR WAS I JUST FILLING IN BLANKS?
LIKE AN ACCIDENT VICTIM WHO DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AFTER GETTING IN THEIR CAR UNTIL THEY WAKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL...
NO...I *ALWAYS* REMEMBERED ZEMO AND THE DRONE PLANE...
ALWAYS REMEMBERED IT EXPLODING.
BUT THE REST OF IT, I SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE THAT READING REPORTS ABOUT THAT DAY COLORED MY PERCEPTIONS.
ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THESE NEW MEMORIES THAT HAVE BEEN SURFACING--- MEMORIES OF ZEMO CAPTURING US. TORTURING BUCKY....
THEY FEEL FAR TOO REAL...


LIKE SOMETHING'S UNLOCKING THE PART OF MY BRAIN WHERE THEY'VE HIDDEN ALL THIS TIME AND FORCING ME TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEM.
THAT'S WHY I HAD TO COME HERE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...TO FIND THE TRUTH.
THIS ISLAND IS ONLY IN ONE REPORT ABOUT THAT DAY. THE ONE PREPARED FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.
THIS WAS A NAZI BASE BETWEEN OCCUPIED FRANCE AND ALLIED BRITAIN. EVEN AFTER THE NAZIS WERE DRIVEN OUT OF FRANCE, THEY MANAGED TO KEEP THIS SPOT A SECRET.
AND WHEN ZEMO CAPTURED US IN ENGLAND, HE AND HIS MEN BROUGHT US HERE. HELD US CAPTIVE WHILE THEY ANALYZED THE ALLIED DRONE PLANE THEY'D STOLEN.
BUT UNTIL THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, I NEVER REMEMBERED THE BRUTALITY OF THE TIME WE WERE HERE. YET...
NO...MY GOD...
THIS IS THE ROOM. THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENED. I WAS FORCED TO WATCH--
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM HIM
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
--AND ZEMO...HE WOULDN'T STOP LAUGHING.
HA HA HA HA HA HA!


HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS...?
MAYBE A BETTER QUESTION IS ...WHY AM I REMEMBERING IT ALL NOW?
--AMERIKANER!
--AMERIKANER!
BUDDABUDDABUDD
WHAT...? NAZI SOLDIERS?
ZEMO? NO. WHAT IS -THIS ISN'T REAL... IT CAN'T BE...
KAPITAN AMERIKANER!
GET HIM! KILL HIM!


BULLETS ARE REAL ENOUGH.
WHATEVER'S GOING ON HERE. ONE THING'S CLEAR...
...I'VE GOTTA GET OUT--NOW!
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!




KRASHH!!
KRAK!
KRAK!
OF COURSE...
...THEY'RE ALL GONE...
NO EVIDENCE THEY WERE REALLY HERE AT ALL...


BUT THEY WERE. I CAN STILL SMELL THE GUNFIRE IN THE AIR.
ALL OF THIS— THESE UNLOCKED MEMORIES THE STRANGE DREAMS AND NOW THESE VANISHING NAZIS— IT'S ALL THE CUBE. IT HAS TO BE.
WHOEVER'S GOT IT LUKIN OR WHOEVER ELSE— THEY'RE MANIPULATING ME
BUT TO WHAT PURPOSE? WHY WOULD SOMEONE WANT ME—
...HERE?
I CAN MAKE IT CAP! I CAN MAKE IT!
BUCKY, WAIT!
GOT IT!


WAIT! IT'S PROBABLY BOOBY-TRAPPED!
I SEE IT! AW GOD, CAP IT'S GONNA BLOW!
NO! I'M LOSING MY GRIP!
DROP OFF, BUCKY.
LET GO!
I CAN'T! I'M STUCK!


OH GOD HE COULDN'T LET GO
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? IS IT EVEN REAL? ARE ANY OF THESE MEMORIES REAL?
WHY DO I FEEL SO SURE THEY ARE?
SOMETHING FURY SAID ABOUT THE COSMIC CUBE STILL NEEDING TO BE CHARGED. THAT'S WHAT THE SKULL'S WMDS WERE FOR...TO CONVERT DEATH INTO ENERGY.
WHICH MEANS THE CUBE THE SKULL HAD WHEN HE DIED IS WEAK.
BUT MAYBE IT'S JUST POWERFUL ENOUGH TO UNLOCK THESE MEMORIES INSIDE ME AND MAKE ME FIGHT PHANTOMS...
TO GIVE ME BACK JUST ENOUGH OF MY PAST TO TORTURE ME.
YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR UP THERE SIR?
I FOUND SOMETHING... I'M JUST NOT SURE WHAT
BACK TO THE HELICARRIER THEN?
SURE WHY DON'T YOU--


UNH!
HEY! YOU--
--OKAY?
SHARON
WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE STATES NOW! HOW FAST CAN THIS THING GO?
YOU KNOW THE CONCORDE?
YES.
WELL, COMPARED TO OUR TOP SPEED, THE CONCORDE'S LIKE WALKING.
TOP SPEED THEN.


S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier
COLONEL FURY'S PRIVATE OFFICE - THIRTY MINUTES LATER
COLONEL STEVE ROGERS IS ON SECURE ONE.
RIGHT TERESA. PUT HIM THROUGH.
FURY HERE. WHAT'S--
SHARON'S BEEN CAPTURED
I KNOW... I'VE GOT TEAMS COMBING THE STREETS FOR HER AS WE SPEAK.
DAMN IT FURY. YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME
NO. SOMEONE'S PULLING OUR STRINGS, ROGERS. EVER THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT, FOR YOU TO GO RUSHING IN BLIND?
I KNOW. THEY DO. THEY SHOWED ME EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND HER.
WHAT? WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
I CAN HAVE TEAMS IN PLACE IN TWO MINUTES. WHERE IS--
SORRY NICK. I'D HAVE RADIOED IN EARLIER. BUT COMMUNICATIONS WERE OFFLINE AT TOP SPEED...
...ANYWAY. I'M HERE NOW. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
WAIT CAP--THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...
NO TIME NICK--

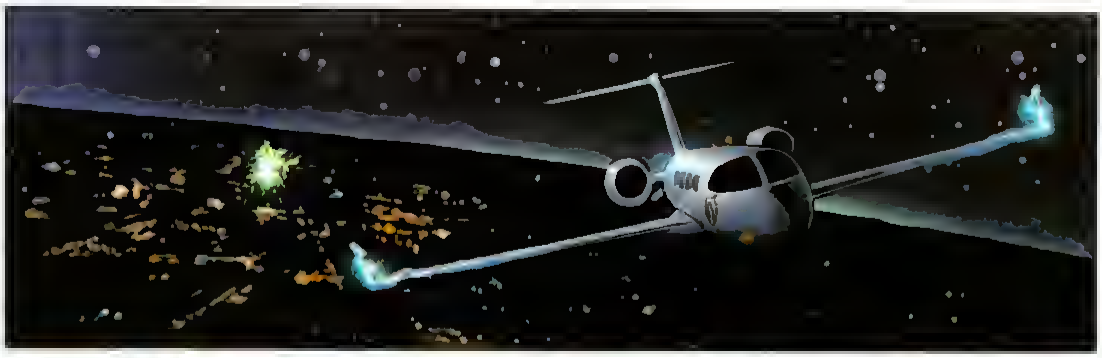

--I'VE GOT A VISUAL. ROGERS OUT.
SNAK!

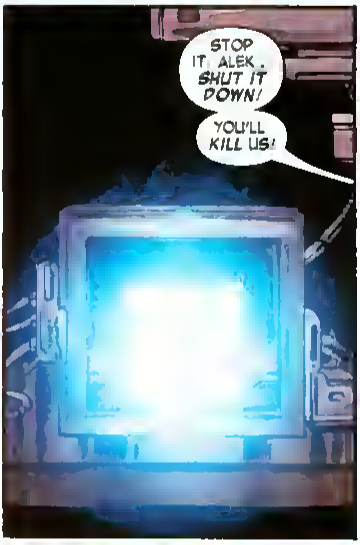

YEEEAAAAAA!
RATATATATAT!
WAP
HOLD ON. I GOT YOU. YOU'RE OKAY NOW
I'M SURE IT IS. LET'S JUST GET THESE CHAINS OFF OF YOU AND WE'LL DEAL WITH IT.
STEVE--OH GOD IT'S A SET-UP!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, STEVE. THE GUY WE'VE BEEN HUNTING--THE MAN WHO KILLED THE RED SKULL--
--I'VE SEEN HIM!

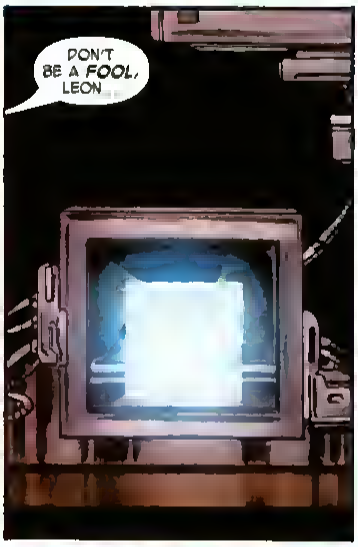

"--I THINK-- I THINK IT'S BUCKY!"
THEY'RE IN POSITION GENERAL.
SHOULD I TAKE THE SHOT?
NO. REGARDLESS OF YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS, THAT IS NOT THE PLAN.
IT'S NOT ABOUT FEELINGS, SIR. THE MAN IS SIMPLY GOOD. HE'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.
I'M SURE HE WILL BE BUT HE'LL SUFFER MUCH MORE BEFORE HE BECOMES OUR PROBLEM.
...AND THEN YOU'LL GET TO DEAL WITH HIM.
JUST COMPLETE THE MISSION. WE BROUGHT HIM HERE FOR A REASON AFTER ALL.
YES, SIR. GENERAL LUKIN. CONSIDER IT DONE.
DEET

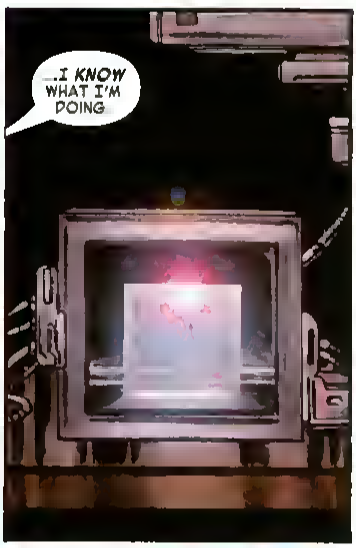

DAMN IT. HOW COULD THEY HAVE MISSED THIS ALL THOSE YEARS?
COLONEL? ONE OF THE PHILADELPHIA TEAMS HAS FOUND SOMETHING
THIS IS FURY. GO.
AGENT TAPPER HERE SIR. GOT A BIG PROBLEM...WE MANAGED TO TRACK AGENT 13'S COMMUNICATOR
--BUT THERE'S A BODY HERE. AND SOME KIND OF BOMB LIKE THE ONE IN YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING
GET OUTTA THERE TAPPER NOW!
I THINK I CAN DISARM IT, SIR. I JUST--
DEET
OH, &%#^
SSSHHHSSSHH
TAPPER!


NO
NOT
THIS
OH...OH
MY GOD...
STEVE...!!!
...THIS...
THIS IS WHY
THEY WANTED
YOU HERE...?




STOP IT, ALEK. SHUT IT DOWN!
YOU'LL KILL US!


DON'T BE A FOOL, LEON...


...I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.


WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS INSANE, OLD FRIEND. YOU'VE PUT US ALL AT RISK WITH THIS ACT.
NO. THERE IS NO RISK. THEY MAY KNOW MY HAND IS IN THIS, BUT THEY'RE AMERICANS, REMEMBER? AND WE ARE A VERY WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL CORPORATION.
THEY WILL DEMAND PROOF BEFORE THEY EVEN BEGIN TO QUESTION US.


...AND BY THAT TIME, MY GAME WILL BE OVER...
...AND IT WILL BE FAR TOO LATE.
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE WINTER SOLDIER


MARVEL